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Hartford Courant

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russians intensify strikes on capital

Ukrainian soldiers and firefighters search the grounds of a building after a bombing attack Monday in Kyiv. **VADIM GHIRDA/AP**



Other cities also hit as some civilians can finally flee Mariupol

By Yuras Karmanau
Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine kept a fragile diplomatic path open with a new round of talks Monday even as Moscow's forces pounded away at Kyiv and other cities across the country in a punishing bombardment the Red

Cross said has created "nothing short of a nightmare" for civilians.

Meanwhile, a convoy of 160 civilian cars left the encircled port city of Mariupol along a designated humanitarian route, the city council reported, in a rare glimmer of hope a week and a half into the lethal siege that has pulverized homes and other buildings and left people desperate for food, water, heat and medicine.

The latest negotiations, held via video conference, were the fourth round involving higher-level

officials from the two countries and the first in a week. The talks ended without a breakthrough after several hours, with an aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying the negotiators took "a technical pause" and planned to meet again Tuesday.

The two sides had expressed some optimism in the past few days.

Mykhailo Podolyak, the aide to Zelenskyy, tweeted that the

Turn to Strikes, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

'Test to treat' will be limited

Only some pharmacies in state will dispense free oral antivirals

By Alex Puterman
Hartford Courant

Select CVS locations across Connecticut will soon begin distributing free antiviral COVID-19 treatments as part of a new Biden administration program, though the large majority of pharmacies in the state will not be eligible to participate.

Under the recently announced initiative, known as "test to treat," patients with COVID-19 symptoms may get tested at a select pharmacy, and, if they test positive, walk out with free and highly effective oral treatments. The federal government has already begun disbursing the treatments, which are expected to arrive in stores over the coming days.

The antivirals, however, will be available only at pharmacies with clinics on-site, which account for a fraction of the total across Connecticut. While some — but not nearly all — CVS stores will carry the treatments, Walgreens locations will not, nor will smaller independent pharmacies.

A CVS spokesperson said Monday that all 1,200 of its "minute clinic" locations nationwide will have the antivirals on hand as part of the test-to-treat program. According to the CVS website, the chain has about 25 such locations across Connecticut, though none in the state's four largest cities (Bridgeport, Stamford, New Haven and Hartford).

Walgreens, which has 400 clinics across 20 states nationwide but none in Connecticut, will not have any test-to-treat locations in the state. Patients seeking antiviral COVID-19 treatments will need a prescription from a doctor, a spokesperson said Monday.

It's unclear whether additional chains, beyond Walgreens and CVS, will have test-to-treat locations in Connecticut. Elsewhere, Kroger and Walmart will reportedly participate in the initiative, but Kroger does not have any Connecticut stores, and Walmart will offer the treatments only in Arkansas, Georgia and Chicago, according to MarketWatch.

A federal government website listing all test-to-treat locations is reportedly expected sometime in mid-March. A spokesperson for the state Department of Public Health said Monday the agency did not yet have a list of locations.

Both nationwide and in Connecticut, pharmacists have lobbied for the ability to prescribe COVID-19 treatments so the test-to-treat initiative can be expanded to locations that don't have clinics.

Nathan Tinker, CEO of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association, said that the initiative "cuts out an enormous number of independent pharmacies, pharmacies that don't have clinics attached to them."

Turn to Treatments, Page 3



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Thanks for service

Amid cheers and applause, a team of 20 U.S. Air Force medical personnel exits Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford on Monday after a 30-day deployment, as a part of a federal COVID-19 surge response.



Gov. Ned Lamont speaks Monday during a Capitol news conference to discuss a proposal to provide financial relief to consumers for gasoline costs. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

With gas prices climbing, Lamont calls for tax cut

Also wants 1-week sales tax holiday for clothing

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — With gasoline prices rising sharply in an election year, Gov. Ned Lamont called Monday for cutting the state's gasoline tax by 25 cents per gallon.

The cut would eliminate the excise tax on gasoline in the state's complicated, two-pronged system. The gross receipts tax on gasoline, which is currently at the state-capped maximum of 26.4 cents per gallon, would remain.

The excise tax would be eliminated until the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and would cost state coffers \$90 million. The package does not include any cuts in the state's diesel tax that is paid largely by trucks and large vehicles like a Chevrolet Suburban.

Lamont also called for a sales tax holiday on clothing and footwear under \$100 in April — the same holiday that is traditionally held in August for back-to-school shoppers. That would save consumers a combined \$3 million per week, and both holidays would remain for the 2022 calendar year. The plan also calls for free bus service for the month of April.

Turn to Lamont, Page 2

New details in dispute over judge's absence

Bruno alleges state exacerbated her health problems

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

Dozens of pages of new details became public Monday about the strange standoff between the state judicial branch and Superior Court Judge Alice Bruno, who has collected more than \$350,000 in salary while missing nearly 2½ years of work for what she describes as health-related reasons.

Bruno prepared the information herself in an unusual — and very long — affidavit

in which she alleges the state judicial branch has exacerbated her health problems by creating a "stressful work environment related to the hostility toward my medical conditions and appointments."

The judiciary has not responded to Bruno's granular recitation of what she recounts as years of snubs and rebuffs to her demand for an "accommodation" that would allow her to work at a location "reasonably" close to her home in New Britain and in a setting that provides "a supportive, not hostile, work environment."

Turn to Case, Page 3



MARSHALL RITZEL/AP

Flavored vape ban back on the table

For the second consecutive year, the Connecticut legislature is considering a bill that would ban flavored e-cigarette products. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Strikes

from Page 1

negotiators would discuss “peace, cease-fire, immediate withdrawal of troops & security guarantees.”

Previous discussions, held in Belarus, produced no lasting humanitarian routes or agreements to end the fighting.

In Washington, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at a briefing that while the Biden administration supports Ukraine’s participation in the talks with Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin would have to show signs of de-escalating in order to demonstrate good faith.

“And what we’re really looking for is evidence of that, and we’re not seeing any evidence at this point that President Putin is doing anything to stop the onslaught or de-escalate,” she said.

Overall, nearly all of the Russian military offensives remained stalled after making little progress over the weekend, according to a senior U.S. defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon’s assessment. Russian troops were still 9 miles from the center of Kyiv, the official said.

The official said that Russian forces have launched more than 900 missiles, but that Ukraine’s airspace is still contested, with Russia not achieving total air superiority.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer announced that Zelenskyy will deliver a virtual address to Congress on Wednesday that will also be livestreamed for the public.



Residents carry bags out of an apartment building damaged by a Russian strike in suburban Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday. **MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS**

In Ukraine, air raid alerts sounded overnight in cities and towns around the country, from near the Russian border in the east to the Carpathian Mountains in the west, and fighting continued on the outskirts of Kyiv. Ukrainian officials said Russian forces shelled several suburbs of the capital.

Ukrainian authorities said two people were killed when the Russians struck an airplane factory in Kyiv, sparking a large fire. The Antonov factory is Ukraine’s largest aircraft

plant and produces many of the world’s biggest cargo planes.

Russian artillery fire also hit a nine-story apartment building in the northern Obolonskyi district of the city, killing two more people, authorities said.

And a Russian airstrike near a Ukrainian checkpoint caused extensive damage to a downtown Kyiv neighborhood, killing one person, Ukraine’s emergency agency said. Kateryna Lot said she was in her apartment

as her child did homework when they heard an explosion and ran to take shelter.

“The child became hysterical. Our windows and the balcony were shattered. Part of the floor fell down,” she said. “It was very, very scary.”

In an area outside Kyiv, Fox News reporter Benjamin Hall was injured while reporting and was hospitalized, the network said.

A town councilor for Brovary, east of Kyiv, was killed in fighting there, officials said. Shells also fell on the Kyiv suburbs of Irpin, Bucha and Hostomel, which have seen some of the worst fighting in Russia’s stalled attempt to take the capital, local authorities said.

Airstrikes were reported across the country, including the southern city of Mykolaiv, and the northern city of Chernihiv, where heat was knocked out to most of the town. Explosions also reverberated overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson.

Nine people were killed in a rocket attack on a TV tower in the western village of Antopol, according to the region’s governor.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, firefighters doused the smoldering remains of a four-story residential building. It was unclear whether there were casualties.

In the southern city of Mariupol, where the war has produced some of the greatest suffering, the city council didn’t say how many people were in the convoy of cars headed westward for the city of Zaporizhzhia.

But it said a cease-fire along the route appeared to be holding. Previous attempts to evacuate civilians and deliver humanitarian aid to the city were thwarted by continuing fighting.

Lamont

from Page 1

“There was strong consensus that now is the time to provide immediate relief,” Lamont said after meeting with legislative leaders. “Speed is pretty important here, I think.”

The tax cuts still require approval by the Democratic-controlled legislature, which could vote as early as Wednesday after caucuses of rank-and-file lawmakers in the House of Representatives and Senate.

As inflation has reached its highest level in four decades, gasoline prices were already rising before Russia invaded Ukraine. Now, the prices have gone even higher as the war continues. The average price for regular gasoline Monday in Connecticut was \$4.46 per gallon, up sharply from \$2.87 per gallon one year ago.

Republicans, who called last week for tax cuts, agreed with Lamont’s ideas, but said they want to do more.

“Do I think it’s enough? No,” said Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford. “I think we can go further. We’ll take what we can get today, and we’ll be back tomorrow. ... I think the families across Connecticut need all the help they can get.”

Lamont’s overall package would cost an estimated \$100 million in the current fiscal

year. Republicans said they believe the state has the ability to deliver tax cuts as high as \$180 million this year, but the cuts are not unlimited because of the state’s spending cap rules. In addition, the state cannot use federal stimulus funds directly for tax cuts.

Lamont and lawmakers said it remained unclear Monday if the legislature could move quickly enough for a vote Wednesday. If not, it could be scheduled on March 23.

House Republican leader Vincent Candolara of North Branford said, “Ninety percent of this proposal is exactly what Republicans called for last week. So the lion’s share is what we wanted.”

House and Senate Republicans called for temporarily suspending the state’s gross receipts tax of 26.4 cents per gallon, plus eliminating the federal tax of 18.4 cents. Overall, the cut would be nearly 45 cents per gallon if enacted.

The tax cuts are possible because the state has a projected surplus of \$1.5 billion for the fiscal year that ends on June 30 and more than \$1 billion next year. Connecticut also has a rainy day fund for fiscal emergencies that could reach more than \$5 billion later this year if fiscal trends continue. But some of that money would then be redirected to pay down unfunded pension liabilities.

The once-troubled Special Transporta-

tion Fund, which contains \$1.9 billion from gasoline taxes and various motor vehicle receipts, now has a projected surplus of \$275 million in the current year.

Both Lamont and Democratic legislators had been talking last week about a possible rebate check that could be mailed by the state tax department. The cut at the pump, though, was deemed to be faster than mailing rebate checks to consumers.

Lawmakers, though, have concerns over whether gas stations would actually pass along the tax savings to consumers at the pump. Rep. Sean Scanlon, a Guilford Democrat who co-chairs the tax-writing committee, cited a study of more than 100 gasoline tax cuts in states nationwide, and only about one-third turned into actual relief at the pump because the cuts were not passed along to motorists.

“What these studies show is it doesn’t always get passed along to consumers,” Scanlon said recently. “It’s a hard thing to police at every gas station across Connecticut.”

But lawmakers cited a 2012 Connecticut law that is designed to block price-gouging at a time of high prices. Consumers are being urged to contact state Attorney General William Tong if they see instances of price gouging.

“I worried a little bit that I provide a 25-cent

tax cut, and who says the middleman will pass it all along to you at the pump?” Lamont told reporters. “So we’re working on ways that we will be able to hold people accountable. More on that to come. ... We’re going to be able to put in place crowdsourcing that shows you those gas stations that provide a 25-cent tax cut, and if anybody is using this as a way to expand their profits, they’ll probably hear from the attorney general.”

Besides gasoline taxes, Lamont has proposed a \$336 million package that would reduce taxes on residential real estate and cars. Within income limits, the property tax credit would be restored to all residential property owners. Currently, the credit is limited only to those with dependents and those over the age of 65.

Under Lamont’s plan, an additional 500,000 people would become eligible for the property tax credit for the 2022 calendar year — they would receive the credit when they file their state income taxes in April 2023. The property tax portion of the plan would save taxpayers a combined \$53 million, and the credit would be limited to single filers earning up to \$109,500 and joint filers earning up to \$130,500.

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LOTTERY

Monday, March 14

PLAY3 DAY

4 3 7 WB: 7

PLAY4 DAY

0 6 7 1 WB: 7

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SUNDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

3 7 4 WB: 0

PLAY4 NIGHT

8 2 3 0 WB: 7

CASH 5

4 10 21 26 29

LUCKY FOR LIFE

4 7 9 15 28 LB: 11

Tonight’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.4 million


Tonight’s est. Mega Millions jackpot:

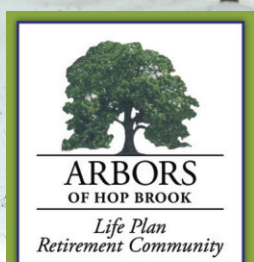
\$22 million

Wednesday’s est. Powerball jackpot:

\$124 million


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FROM PAGE ONE

Cities change course, clear homeless camps

But advocates have denounced new, aggressive ways

By Sara Cline
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Makeshift shelters abut busy roadways, tent cities line sidewalks, tarps cover broken-down cars and sleeping bags are tucked in store-front doorways. The reality of the homelessness crisis in Oregon's largest city can't be denied.

"I would be an idiot to sit here and tell you that things are better today than they were five years ago with regard to homelessness," Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said recently. "People in this city aren't stupid. They can open their eyes."

As COVID-19 took root in the U.S., people on the street were largely left on their own — with many cities halting sweeps of homeless camps following guidance from federal health officials. The lack of remediation led to a situation that has spiraled out of control in many places, with frustrated residents calling for action as extreme forms of poverty play out on city streets.

Wheeler has now used emergency powers to ban camping along certain roadways and says homelessness is the "most important issue facing our community, bar none."

Increasingly in liberal cities across the country — where people living in tents in public spaces have long been tolerated — leaders are removing encampments and pushing other strict measures to address homelessness that would have been unheard of a few years ago.

In Seattle, new Mayor Bruce Harrell ran on a platform that called for action on encampments, focusing on highly visible tent cities in his first few months in office. Across from City Hall, two blocks worth of tents and belongings were removed Wednesday. The clearing marked the end of a two and a half week standoff between the mayor and activists who occupied the camp, working in shifts to keep homeless people from being moved.

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser launched a pilot program over the summer to permanently clear several homeless camps. In December, the initiative faced a crucial test



City of Seattle workers remove homeless tents and belongings from a sidewalk last week near City Hall. SEATTLE TIMES

as lawmakers voted on a bill that would ban clearings until April. It failed 5-7.

In California, home to more than 160,000 homeless people, cities are reshaping how they address the crisis. The Los Angeles City Council used new laws to ban camping in 54 locations. LA Mayoral candidate Joe Buscaino has introduced plans for a ballot measure that would prohibit people from sleeping outdoors in public spaces if they have turned down offers of shelter.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed declared a state of emergency in December in the crime-heavy Tenderloin neighborhood, which has been ground zero for drug dealing, overdose deaths and homelessness. She said it's time to get aggressive.

In Sacramento voters may decide on multiple proposed homeless-related ballot measures in November — including prohibiting people from storing "hazardous waste," such as needles and feces, on public and private property, and requiring the city to create thousands of shelter beds. City officials in

the area are feeling increasing pressure to break liberal conventions, including from a conservation group that is demanding that 750 people camping along a 23-mile natural corridor of the American River Parkway be removed from the area.

Advocates for the homeless have denounced aggressive measures, saying the problem is being treated as a blight or a chance for cheap political gains, instead of a humanitarian crisis.

Donald Whitehead, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said at least 65 U.S. cities are criminalizing or sweeping encampments. "Everywhere that there is a high population of homeless people, we started to see this as their response."

Portland's homeless crisis has grown increasingly visible in recent years. During the area's 2019 point-in-time count — a yearly census of sorts — an estimated 4,015 people were experiencing homelessness, with half of them "unsheltered" or sleeping outside. Advocates say the numbers have likely significantly increased.

Last month Wheeler used his emergency powers to ban camping on the sides of "high-crash" roadways — which encompass about 8% of the total area of the city. The decision followed a report showing 19 of 27 pedestrians killed by cars in Portland last year were homeless. People in at least 10 encampments were given 72 hours to leave.

"It's been made very clear people are dying," Wheeler said. "So I approach this from a sense of urgency."

Wheeler's top adviser — Sam Adams, a former Portland mayor — has also outlined a controversial plan that would force up to 3,000 homeless people into massive temporary shelters staffed by Oregon National Guard members. Advocates say the move, which marks a major shift in tone and policy, would ultimately criminalize homelessness.

"I understand my suggestions are big ideas," Adams wrote. "Our work so far, mine included, has failed to produce the sought-after results."

Oregon's Democratic governor rejected the idea.

But Adams says if liberal cities don't take drastic action, ballot measures that crack down on homelessness may emerge instead.

That's what happened in left-leaning Austin, Texas. Last year voters there reinstated a ban that penalizes those who camp downtown and near the University of Texas, in addition to making it a crime to ask for money in certain areas and times.

People who work with the homeless urge mayors to find long-term solutions such as permanent housing and addressing root causes like addiction and affordability.

The pandemic has added complications, with homeless-related complaints skyrocketing in places like Portland, where the number of campsites removed each week plummeted from 50 to five after COVID-19 hit.

The situation has affected businesses and events, with employers routinely asking officials to do more. Some are looking to move, while others already have — notably Oregon's largest annual golf tournament, the LPGA Tour's Portland Classic, relocated from Portland last

year due to safety concerns related to a nearby homeless encampment.

In New York City, where a homeless man is accused of pushing a woman to her death in front of a subway in January, Mayor Eric Adams announced a plan to start barring people from sleeping on trains or riding the same lines all night.

Adams has likened homelessness to a "cancerous sore," leading to what advocates describe as a negative and inaccurate narrative that villainizes the population.

"Talk to someone on the street and literally just hear a little bit about their stories — I mean, honestly, homelessness can happen to any one of us," said Laura Recko, associate director of external communications for Central City Concern in Portland.

And some question whether the tougher approach is legal — citing the 2018 federal court decision known as *Martin v. City of Boise*, Idaho, that said cities cannot make it illegal for people to sleep or rest outside without providing sufficient indoor alternatives.



Detail of packages of Pfizer Paxlovid pills at SureCare Pharmacy inside of Esperanza Health Center in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood on Jan. 13. Pfizer's Paxlovid is a treatment for Covid-19. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Treatments

from Page 1

"I think the idea is really good, and it has great potential to do good in the community, but limiting the number of pharmacies who are able to do it, you're going to really limit the number of Americans who have access," Tinker said.

Others, however, have resisted the idea of granting pharmacists a greater role in distributing COVID-19 treatments. In a statement issued after President Joe Biden announced the test-to-treat program during his State of the Union, the American Medical Association firmly opposed the test-to-treat program, saying that it "risks significant negative health outcomes."

"This approach, though well intentioned in that it attempted to increase access to care for patients without a primary care physician, oversimplifies challenging prescribing decisions by omitting knowledge of a patient's medical history, the complexity of drug inter-

actions, and managing possible negative reactions," said Dr. Gerald E. Harmon, the association's president.

According to the Guardian, a Food and Drug Administration official said the decision to forbid pharmacists from prescribing COVID-19 treatments "was based on several factors, including the drugs' side-effect profiles, the need to assess potential for drug interactions, the need to assess potential kidney function problems (including the severity of potential problems), and the need to evaluate patients for pre-existing conditions."

The two drugs that may be prescribed under the test-to-treat program are Paxlovid, which has been found nearly 90% effective in keeping high-risk COVID-19 patients from developing serious illness, and molnupiravir, which is less effective but is recommended in instances when other treatments aren't available.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com

Case

from Page 1

Bruno, 66, asked the court to seal her affidavit and related medical attachments, which were filed as part of her effort to postpone an order requiring her to appear before the court on April 5 to demonstrate "why her failure to perform judicial functions for at least the last two years is not a violation of the following Rules contained within the Code of Judicial Conduct"

The court declined to rule on her request to seal the material from public view and, as a result, the affidavit was posted on the judicial branch website after most medical information had been removed.

The court scheduled the unusual hearing after years of negotiation failed to resolve the impasse with Bruno. She wanted to postpone the hearing until after a related inquiry by the Judicial Review Council, which investigates judicial misconduct such as unanticipated or prolonged absences by judges that can upend the orderly operation of the courts, in extreme cases leading to dismissal of cases.

Bruno filed her affidavit in an effort to postpone her April 5 appearance until after the Judicial Review Council completes its work. The Supreme Court denied the postponement in an order dated Friday and made public Monday.

Although most of Bruno's recent medical history was redacted from the affidavit, her lawyer, Jacques J. Parenteau, told *Courant* columnist Kevin Rennie last year that "following emergency hospitalization for a cardiac procedure in November 2019, Judge Bruno has been on a leave of absence to address

several health issues."

In the affidavit, Bruno also claims the judicial branch contributed to the stress she has suffered by opposing her desire to obtain therapy for an injured ankle and treatment for an infection that followed a vaccination.

She implies in her filing that the judicial branch now is asking that she submit to a competency review under a state law authorizing Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III to order such an examination if a judge "cannot fully perform his or her judicial or magisterial duties by reason of mental infirmity or illness or because of drug dependency or addiction to alcohol."

Bruno opposes such an examination, according to her affidavit. She argues it is harassment and shows the judicial branch is not "interested in finding a reasonable accommodation that would allow me to return to a supportive Judicial District in order to work as a Judge of the Superior Court."

"On November 16, 2021, through counsel, I informed the Judicial Branch that no reasonable person would cite to (statute) § 51-45b as authority for a mental fitness examination based on the medical information that had been provided to the Judicial Department," she wrote. "Rather than have a meeting to discuss the accommodation sought and the rationale for that accommodation, the Judicial Branch had abandoned the good faith interactive process by seeking an unwarranted medical examination."

Bruno last reported to work on Nov. 14, 2019. In her affidavit, she claims "the stressful work environment related to the hostility toward my medical conditions and appointments to treat ongoing health issues reached

a peak" two weeks earlier when she left work to see her primary care physician about an undisclosed medical condition. By that point, the judicial branch administration had become concerned about absences by her and other judges and had initiated an audit.

Bruno alleges that, "While I was in the doctor's office Judge (Anna) Ficeto continued the harassment directed by Chief Court Administrator Carroll in leaving a voice mail on my phone that was critical of my taking time to attend to health issues."

Rhonda Stearley-Hebert, Judicial Branch spokeswoman and manager of communications, said Carroll and Ficeto declined to comment about Bruno's claims.

According to Bruno's affidavit, in the voice mail message, Ficeto, who was supervising the Waterbury Courthouse, said she had become aware from a colleague that Bruno was taking a week off for medical purposes. Ficeto asked Bruno to provide a medical note. Ficeto also said there was an audit underway of sick time taken by judges and Bruno was likely to be included, the affidavit states.

"... So you just need to be aware of the fact that your attendance, your doctor's appointments and all those things are being scrutinized at every level. I understand you've got doctor's appointments coming up, once again they're in the middle of the day," the affidavit recounts. Ficeto as saying on the voicemail. "You keep digging this hole for yourself Alice, I don't know how many ways to tell you that what you're doing is not acceptable. Call me when you get a chance. Thank you."

Bruno, appointed by former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy,

submitted a letter from her doctor on Nov. 26, 2019 and said she would be back at work Dec. 11, 2019. But she submitted another note before then, saying she was unable to return to work, the affidavit says.

In her affidavit, Bruno claims that at one point the Judicial Branch proposed having her return to work in Waterbury — which is relatively close to her home, but also where Ficeto was working — as a proposed accommodation. Bruno said she rejected the offer because Ficeto allegedly had been hostile to her in the past, apart from what Bruno said she considered to be the antagonistic voice message.

"For example, after I was appointed to Waterbury Judicial District she would not say hello to me when passing me in building," Bruno wrote.

Bruno said what she considers her mistreatment by colleagues began as early as 2015.

"I was assigned to domestic violence docket in the Judicial District of Hartford in July of 2015," she wrote. "During this assignment, I contracted a severe infection following a Shingles vaccination such that I was forced to work with a high temperature and fever because Chief Court Administrator told me that I could not take time off."

"It was also during this assignment that I was informed that I could not schedule doctor's appointments on Monday or Friday, or even during the workday. As will be seen these unreasonable restrictions on my ability to obtain medical treatment eventually caused me to experience severe, physical stress and mental distress that resulted in hospitalization for cardiac distress symptoms in November of 2019," she wrote.

WAR IN UKRAINE

US view of Putin: Angry, frustrated

Intel chiefs express concern over what Russian might do

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly three weeks into a war he expected to dominate in two days, Vladimir Putin is projecting anger, frustration at his military’s failures and a willingness to cause even more violence and destruction in Ukraine, in the assessment of U.S. intelligence officials.

Officials in recent days have publicly said they’re worried the Russian president will escalate the conflict to try to break Ukraine’s resistance. Russia still holds overwhelming military advantages and can bombard the country for weeks more. And while the rest of the world reacts to horrific images of the war he started, Putin remains insulated from domestic pressure by what CIA Director William Burns called a “propaganda bubble.”

Putin’s mindset — as tough as it is to determine from afar — is critical for the West to understand as it provides more military aid to Ukraine and also prevents Putin from directly taking on NATO countries or possibly reaching for the nuclear button.

Intelligence officials over two days of testimony before Congress last week voiced concerns about what Putin might do. Those concerns increasingly shape discussions about what U.S. policymakers are willing to do for Ukraine.

Over two decades, Putin



Russian President Putin chairs a government meeting via teleconference last week in Moscow. MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV/SPUTNIK

has achieved total dominance of Russia’s government and security services, ruling with a tiny inner circle, marginalizing dissent, and jailing or killing his opposition. He has long criticized the breakup of the Soviet Union, dismissed Ukraine’s claims to sovereignty, and mused about nuclear war ending with Russians as “martyrs.”

Burns told lawmakers that he believed Putin was “stewing in a combustible combination of grievance and ambition for many years.”

Putin had expected to seize Kyiv in two days, Burns said.

Instead, his military has

failed to take control of major cities and lost several thousand soldiers already. The West has imposed sanctions and other measures that have crippled the Russian economy and diminished living standards for oligarchs and ordinary citizens alike. Much of the foreign currency Russia had accumulated as a bulwark against sanctions is frozen in banks abroad.

Burns is a former U.S. ambassador to Moscow who has met with Putin many times. He told lawmakers in response to a question about the Russian president’s mental state that he did not believe Putin was crazy.

“I think Putin is angry and frustrated right now,” he said. “He’s likely to double down and try to grind down the Ukrainian military with no regard for civilian casualties.”

Russia’s recent unsupported claims that the U.S. is helping Ukraine develop chemical or biological weapons suggest that Putin may be prepared to deploy those weapons in a “false flag” operation, Burns said.

There’s no apparent path to ending the war. It is nearly inconceivable that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has won admiration around the world for leading his

country’s resistance, would suddenly recognize Russia’s annexation of Crimea or support granting new autonomy to Russian-friendly parts of eastern Ukraine. And even if he captures Kyiv and deposes Zelenskyy, Putin would have to account for an insurgency supported by the West in a country of more than 40 million.

“He has no sustainable political endgame in the face of what is going to continue to be fierce resistance from Ukrainians,” Burns said.

European leaders are still trying to maintain dialogue with Putin.

Prime Minister Xavier Bettel of Luxembourg

spoke Monday with Putin and “pleaded for an immediate ceasefire,” according to Bettel’s tweet. A spokesperson said Bettel was encouraged to contact Putin by other leaders who “wanted to make sure Putin would continue talking with them.”

Bettel also spoke with Zelenskyy.

Avril Haines, President Joe Biden’s director of national intelligence, said Putin “perceives this as a war he cannot afford to lose. But what he might be willing to accept as a victory may change over time given the significant costs he is incurring.”

Intelligence analysts think Putin’s recent raising of Russia’s nuclear alert level was “probably intended to deter the West from providing additional support to Ukraine,” she said.

Meanwhile, as the violence worsens and more Russians die, the West is also watching for any sign of holes forming in Putin’s “propaganda bubble.”

One independent Russian political analyst, Kirill Rogov, posted on his Telegram account that the war is “lost” and an “epic failure.”

“The mistake was the notion that the West was unwilling to resist aggression, that it was lethargic, greedy and divided,” Rogov wrote.

“The idea that the Russian economy is self-sufficient and secure was a mistake. The mistake was the idea of the quality of the Russian army. And the main mistake was the idea that Ukraine is a failed state, and Ukrainians are not a nation.

“Four mistakes in making one decision is a lot,” he said.

US warns China against supplying help to Russia

Officials say Beijing signals it can provide military, financial aid

By Aamer Madhani,
Josh Boak
and Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Face to face, President Joe Biden’s national security adviser warned a top Chinese official Monday about China’s support for Russia in the Ukrainian invasion, even as the Kremlin denied reports it had requested Chinese military equipment to use in the war.

U.S. adviser Jake Sullivan and senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi met in Rome, with the Biden administration increasingly concerned that China is using the Ukraine war to advance Beijing’s long-term interest in its competition with the United States.

Sullivan was seeking clarity on Beijing’s posture and was warning the Chinese anew that assistance for Russia — including helping it avert sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Western allies — would be costly for them.

“The national security adviser and our delegation raised directly and very clearly our concerns about

the PRC’s support to Russia in the wake of the invasion, and the implications that any such support would have for the PRC’s relationship not only with us, but for its relationships around the world,” said State Department spokesman Ned Price, using the initials for the People’s Republic of China.

Meanwhile, two administration officials said the U.S. had determined that China had signaled to Russia that it would be willing to provide both military support for the campaign in Ukraine and financial backing to help stave off the impact of severe Western sanctions, which include a fourth set of EU sanctions announced late Monday. The officials said that assessment had been relayed to Western and Asian allies and partners earlier Monday.

“Moscow has received a positive response from Beijing,” said one official, describing a diplomatic cable sent to U.S. embassies asking for them to inform their host governments of the information. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive information.

Sullivan made clear during an “intense” seven-hour meeting that the Biden administration has deep

concerns about China’s alignment with Russia at this time, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

Psaki declined to comment on whether the U.S. believes China has already provided the Russians with military, economic or other assistance.

In advance of the talks, Sullivan warned China to avoid helping Russia evade punishment from global sanctions that have hammered the Russian economy. “We will not allow that to go forward,” he said.

Russia, however, on Monday denied it needed China’s help.

“No, Russia has its own potential to continue the operation, which, as we have said, is unfolding in accordance with the plan and will be completed on time and in full,” said Dmitry Peskov, President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman.

Meanwhile, White House officials are discussing the possibility of Biden traveling to Europe to meet with allies about the crisis in Ukraine, according to three U.S. officials. The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the trip hasn’t been finalized.

One possibility is a visit to NATO headquarters in



Firefighters assist a man from a building hit by shelling Monday in Kyiv. Russia denied reports that it has requested military equipment from China. UKRAINIAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Brussels on March 24 with other potential stops in Europe, according to one of the officials.

The prospect of China offering Russia financial help is one of several concerns for Biden. A U.S. official said that in recent days, Russia has requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war with Ukraine. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide details on the scope of the request.

The Biden administra-

tion is also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext for Putin’s forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the U.S. and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with “no limits.”

Asked at a daily briefing about the reported Russian

request for assistance, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said: “The U.S. has been spreading disinformation targeting China recently over the Ukraine issue. It is malicious.

“What is pressing now is that all parties should exercise restraint and strive to cool down the situation, rather than fueling the tension,” Zhao said.

The White House said the Sullivan-Yang talks focused on the impact of Russia’s war against Ukraine and on regional and global security.



This pregnant woman rushed from a shelled hospital died. Russia falsely called the images fake. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Pregnant woman, baby die after hospital attack

By Mstyslav Chernov
Associated Press

MARIUPOL, Ukraine — A wounded pregnant woman who was taken on a stretcher from a maternity hospital that was bombed by Russia last week has died, along with her baby, The Associated Press has learned.

Images of the woman were seen around the world, personifying the horror of an attack on civilians.

She was one of at least

three pregnant women tracked down by the AP from the maternity hospital that was shelled Wednesday in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol. The other two survived, along with their newborn daughters.

In video and photos shot by journalists after the hospital attack, the wounded woman stroked her bloodied lower left abdomen as emergency workers carried her through the rubble, her blanched face mirroring her shock at what had just

happened.

It was among the most brutal moments in Russia’s now 19-day-old war in Ukraine.

The woman was taken to another hospital, closer to the front line, where doctors tried to save her. Realizing she was losing her baby, medics said, she had cried out to them, “Kill me now!”

Dr. Timur Marin said Saturday that the woman’s pelvis had been crushed and her hip detached. Her baby was delivered via cesarean

section but showed “no signs of life,” he said.

They tried to save the woman, and “more than 30 minutes of resuscitation of the mother didn’t produce results,” Marin said. “Both died.”

In the chaos after the airstrike, medical workers did not get her name before her husband and father took away her body.

Russia’s ambassador to the U.N. and the Russian Embassy in London falsely called the images fake.

WORLD & NATION

Cities change course, clear homeless camps

But advocates have denounced new, aggressive ways

By Sara Cline
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Makeshift shelters abut busy roadways, tent cities line sidewalks, tarps cover broken-down cars and sleeping bags are tucked in storefront doorways. The reality of the homelessness crisis in Oregon's largest city can't be denied.

"I would be an idiot to sit here and tell you that things are better today than they were five years ago with regard to homelessness," Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said recently. "People in this city aren't stupid. They can open their eyes."

As COVID-19 took root in the U.S., people on the street were largely left on their own — with many cities halting sweeps of homeless camps following guidance from federal health officials. The lack of remediation led to a situation that has spiraled out of control in many places, with frustrated residents calling for action as extreme forms of poverty play out on city streets.

Wheeler has now used emergency powers to ban camping along certain roadways and says homelessness is the "most important issue facing our community, bar none."

Increasingly in liberal cities across the country — where people living in tents in public spaces have long been tolerated — leaders are removing encampments and pushing other strict measures to address homelessness that would have been unheard of a few years ago.

In Seattle, new Mayor Bruce Harrell ran on a platform that called for action on encampments, focusing on highly visible tent cities in his first few months in office. Across from City



City of Seattle workers remove homeless tents and belongings from a sidewalk last week near City Hall. SEATTLE TIMES

Hall, two blocks worth of tents and belongings were removed Wednesday. The clearing marked the end of a two and a half week standoff between the mayor and activists who occupied the camp, working in shifts to keep homeless people from being moved.

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser launched a pilot program over the summer to permanently clear several homeless camps. In December, the initiative faced a crucial test as lawmakers voted on a bill that would ban clearings until April. It failed 5-7.

In California, home to more than 160,000 homeless people, cities are reshaping how they address the crisis. The Los Angeles City Council used new laws to ban camping in 54 locations. LA Mayoral candidate Joe Buscaino has introduced plans for a ballot measure that would prohibit people from sleeping outdoors in public spaces if they have turned down offers of shelter.

San Francisco Mayor

London Breed declared a state of emergency in December in the crime-heavy Tenderloin neighborhood, which has been ground zero for drug dealing, overdose deaths and homelessness. She said it's time to get aggressive.

In Sacramento voters may decide on multiple proposed homeless-related ballot measures in November — including prohibiting people from storing "hazardous waste," such as needles and feces, on public and private property, and requiring the city to create thousands of shelter beds. City officials in the area are feeling increasing pressure to break liberal conventions, including from a conservation group that is demanding that 750 people camping along a 23-mile natural corridor of the American River Parkway be removed from the area.

Advocates for the homeless have denounced aggressive measures, saying the problem is being treated as a blight or a chance for cheap political gains, instead of a humanitarian crisis.

Donald Whitehead, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said at least 65 U.S. cities are criminalizing or sweeping encampments. "Everywhere that there is a high population of homeless people, we started to see this as their response."

Portland's homeless crisis has grown increasingly visible in recent years. During the area's 2019 point-in-time count — a yearly census of sorts — an estimated 4,015 people were experiencing homelessness, with half of them "unsheltered" or sleeping outside. Advocates say the numbers have likely significantly increased.

Last month Wheeler used his emergency powers to ban camping on the sides of "high-crash" roadways — which encompass about 8% of the total area of the city. The decision followed a report showing 19 of 27 pedestrians killed by cars in Portland last year were homeless. People in at least 10 encampments were given 72 hours to leave.

"It's been made very clear

people are dying," Wheeler said. "So I approach this from a sense of urgency."

Wheeler's top adviser — Sam Adams, a former Portland mayor — has also outlined a controversial plan that would force up to 3,000 homeless people into massive temporary shelters staffed by Oregon National Guard members. Advocates say the move, which marks a major shift in tone and policy, would ultimately criminalize homelessness.

"I understand my suggestions are big ideas," Adams wrote. "Our work so far, mine included, has failed to produce the sought-after results."

Oregon's Democratic governor rejected the idea. But Adams says if liberal cities don't take drastic action, ballot measures that crack down on homelessness may emerge instead.

That's what happened in left-leaning Austin, Texas. Last year voters there reinstated a ban that penalizes those who camp downtown and near the University of Texas, in addition to making

it a crime to ask for money in certain areas and times.

People who work with the homeless urge mayors to find long-term solutions such as permanent housing and addressing root causes like addiction and affordability.

The pandemic has added complications, with homeless-related complaints skyrocketing in places like Portland, where the number of campsites removed each week plummeted from 50 to five after COVID-19 hit.

The situation has affected businesses and events, with employers routinely asking officials to do more. Some are looking to move, while others already have — notably Oregon's largest annual golf tournament, the LPGA Tour's Portland Classic, relocated from Portland last year due to safety concerns related to a nearby homeless encampment.

In New York City, where a homeless man is accused of pushing a woman to her death in front of a subway in January, Mayor Eric Adams announced a plan to start barring people from sleeping on trains or riding the same lines all night.

Adams has likened homelessness to a "cancerous sore," lending to what advocates describe as a negative and inaccurate narrative that villainizes the population.

"Talk to someone on the street and literally just hear a little bit about their stories — I mean, honestly, homelessness can happen to any one of us," said Laura Recko, associate director of external communications for Central City Concern in Portland.

And some question whether the tougher approach is legal — citing the 2018 federal court decision known as *Martin v. City of Boise*, Idaho, that said cities cannot make it illegal for people to sleep or rest outside without providing sufficient indoor alternatives.



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A T J E R O M E H O M E

WORLD & NATION

Census may be down for the count

Existing method of tallying nation pressing its limits

By Michael Wines
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Beyond the reports of undercounts and overcounts in population totals, there is another takeaway from the postmortem of 2020 census data issued last week: This could be the last census of its kind.

The next census will be taken in a nation where Amazon may have a better handle on where many people live than the U.S. Census Bureau itself. For some advocates of a more accurate count, the era in which census-takers knock on millions of doors to persuade people to fill out forms should give way in 2030 to a sleeker approach: data mining, surveys, statistical projections and — if politics allows — help from the nation’s tech giants and their endless petabytes of personal information.

The Census Bureau has hinted recently at a “blended” approach in which official census figures could be supplemented with reliable data from government records and other sources.

That would depart from the longstanding model in which the population tally, taken once every 10 years, was the marker for everything that followed, even if it was long outdated by year six or seven.

“The model we have been using since 1790,” when the first census was conducted, “has run its course,” said Kenneth Prewitt, the Columbia University scholar who oversaw the 2000 census.

Businesses and researchers have been using those techniques for years, if not decades. But while some changes in the census seem inevitable, how much remains an open issue.



Volunteers hand out information about the census in Perris, California. CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2020

The Census Bureau has stuck with more traditional survey work in part because of legal constraints; a 1999 Supreme Court ruling barred the bureau from using statistical estimates in population counts to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives. But politicians, experts, local governments and industries that consume Census Bureau data worry that seizing on data from other sources without vetting it could make the bureau’s snapshots of the nation less accurate.

It is an article of faith among data experts and the Census Bureau itself that data obtained directly from people are more reliable than secondhand or thirdhand data from other sources. And experts are wary that other data can raise privacy issues or allegations that it was cherry-picked to fit an agenda.

The bureau itself considered tapping secondhand

sources like state records to fine-tune its 2020 portraits of the population, but it often shied away unless it could find corroborating information elsewhere, according to Amy O’Hara, a former Census Bureau official who is now the executive director of the Federal Statistical Research Data Center at Georgetown University.

O’Hara said the gusher of public and available data opens new avenues to a far more accurate census, but only if the numbers can be proven accurate and the Census Bureau can navigate the tricky boundary between tapping private research and issuing public statistics.

What seems clear is that the existing way of tallying the nation’s population is pressing its limits. The first census by mail was conducted in 1960. Ever since, the nation has counted itself by tallying

census forms filled out on millions of kitchen tables, then dispatching an army of census takers to collect data from the millions of others who did not fill them out.

The 2020 census streamlined that process by moving most of the form-filling from cumbersome paper surveys to the internet and equipping census workers with iPhones and census-taking apps. Online census forms proved a resounding success, census officials say, because they were easier, cheaper and quicker to process, and because the Census Bureau’s computer operations handled them virtually without problems.

Yet despite those improvements, the share of residents who opted to complete census forms remained stuck at two-thirds of all households, where it has sat stubbornly for four decades. The so-called nonresponse follow-up, known as NRFU, of the remaining one-third,

conducted by census workers, was hamstrung by hurricanes, forest fires, political interference and rising suspicion of the government among partisans on the political right and among racial and ethnic groups.

Steve Jost, a former senior census official who is a consultant to the Census Project, a group advocating a more accurate count, lamented that. Tracking down nonresponders eats up roughly half the cost of each census, he said, yet the census still fails to reach 2% to 3% of households.

“That disproportionately impacts communities of color,” he said. “How long are we going to beat our heads against it?”

Prewitt and other experts say some solutions are obvious. For decades, the Census Bureau has undercounted some groups, including poorer residents and children, in part because they

can be harder to find — they move more frequently, for example — and because census forms can be more confusing to people with less education or poorer language skills.

But state governments maintain accurate birth and death records and manage a range of federal programs aimed at the poor and children, such as Medicaid; the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC; and the SNAP program once known as food stamps. None shares data with the bureau, but an agreement to do so “could probably put a bigger dent in the problem than putting more enumerators on the street,” Jost said.

There are other ways to improve census results. Public and private utility records, for example, assiduously track which residences are occupied or vacant, potentially making it easier for the Census Bureau to compile a more complete and accurate list of households to survey.

The adjustments disclosed last week about flawed counts of people of color stemmed from a two-year spot-check of census results that covered 10,000 census blocks, the smallest geographic unit used for counting population. The results of that spot-check were extrapolated to the count at large to produce what bureau officials believe were accurate estimates of undercounts and overcounts.

That and other surveys — the Census Bureau conducts hundreds, from its rolling American Community Survey of the general population to reports on labor trends — could be used to update the base census totals. But for decades, Congress has resisted mixing the pen-to-paper, face-to-face census data with numbers that politicians might regard as conjured up from smaller samples of people.



Julian Assange has sought to avoid a trial in the U.S. on a series of charges tied to WikiLeaks’ publication of classified documents more than a decade ago. FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP 2017

UK top court refuses to hear Assange extradition appeal

By Sylvia Hui and Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain’s top court Monday refused WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange permission to appeal against a decision to extradite him to the U.S. to face spying charges.

The court said it refused because the case “didn’t raise an arguable point of law.”

Assange, 50, has sought for years to avoid a trial in the U.S. on a series of charges related to WikiLeaks’ publication of a huge trove of classified documents more than a decade ago.

The case is now expected to be formally sent to British Home Secretary Priti Patel, who will decide whether to grant the extradition.

A British district court judge had initially rejected a U.S. extradition request on the grounds that Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions. U.S. authorities later provided assurances that the WikiLeaks founder wouldn’t face the severe treatment that his lawyers said would put his physical

and mental health at risk.

In December, the High Court overturned the lower court’s decision, saying that the U.S. promises were enough to guarantee that Assange would be treated humanely.

Monday’s news narrows Assange’s options, but his defense team may still seek to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Nick Vamos, former head of extradition at the Crown Prosecution Service, said Assange’s lawyers can also seek to challenge other points that he had lost in the original district court decision.

Barry Pollack, Assange’s U.S.-based lawyer, said it was “extremely disappointing” that Britain’s Supreme Court is unwilling to hear the appeal.

“Mr. Assange will continue the legal process fighting his extradition to the United States to face criminal charges for publishing truthful and newsworthy information,” he said.

Assange’s British lawyers, Birnberg Peirce Solicitors, said they can make submissions to the Home Secretary

within the next four weeks.

U.S. prosecutors say Assange unlawfully helped Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

But supporters and lawyers for Assange argue that he was acting as a journalist and is entitled to First Amendment protections of freedom of speech for publishing documents that exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If convicted, Assange’s lawyers say he could face up to 175 years in jail in the U.S., though authorities have said the sentence was likely to be much lower than that.

Assange has been held at Belmarsh Prison in London since 2019, when he was arrested for skipping bail during a separate legal battle. Before that, he spent seven years inside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden to face allegations of rape and sexual assault.

Sweden dropped the sex crimes investigations in November 2019 because so much time had elapsed.

Dem group accuses Trump of breaking campaign law

By Shane Goldmacher
The New York Times

A Democratic super PAC said it is filing a formal complaint with the Federal Election Commission on Monday accusing Donald Trump of violating campaign finance law by spending political funds on a 2024 presidential bid without formally declaring himself a candidate.

The complaint uses Trump’s own words about a 2024 run — “I know what I’m going to do, but we’re not supposed to be talking about it yet from the standpoint of campaign finance laws,” he said in the fall — to accuse him of improperly using his existing political committees to advance a presidential run.

Federal rules require those who raise or spend more than \$5,000 in support of a presidential campaign to register with the Federal Election Commission.

Trump has repeatedly teased that he plans to run for president again, saying at the Conservative Political Action Conference last month, “We did it twice and we’ll do it again.” But though he formally filed for reelection the day of his inauguration in 2017, Trump has not done so for 2024. Such a filing would set off restrictions on how he could raise and spend campaign money, including his existing war chest.

Trump-controlled committees entered 2022 with \$122 million in the bank — far more than the Republican Party itself.

“He should have to adhere to the law in a way that all other candidates do,” said Jessica Floyd, president of American Bridge, the Democratic group that is filing the complaint. “When he says ‘I’m going to do it a third time,’ that’s not flirting. That’s more than a toe dip.”

Floyd noted that Trump’s citations of campaign law



Former President Donald Trump arrives at a rally Saturday in Florence, South Carolina. Trump has repeatedly teased that he plans to run for president in 2024. MEG KINNARD/AP

show clear intentions to evade the existing rules. “It’s not like he doesn’t know what he’s doing,” she said.

Taylor Budowich, a spokesman for Trump, called the complaint frivolous.

“America is spiraling into disaster because of the Democrats’ failures, and instead of reversing course, they are busy filing frivolous complaints that have zero merit,” he said.

Trump told Fox News host Sean Hannity in July that he had made up his mind about another White House bid. A month later, he said on Fox News again that it was “unbelievably stupid” campaign finance laws that prevented him from directly stating his intentions.

“Let me put it this way: I think you’ll be happy, and I think that a lot of our friends will be very happy. But I’m not actually allowed to answer it,” Trump said. “It makes it very difficult if I do.”

Nothing legally bars Trump from declaring he is running for president. But he would be subject to additional fundraising limits and disclosure requirements if he did so.

Once a politician has

decided to run for federal office and begun fundraising, the person is supposed to file paperwork declaring the candidacy. There is also an interim step for those who are “testing the waters” of a run.

The American Bridge complaint says Trump has crossed both thresholds, though the line is blurry.

For now, Trump’s main PAC, called Save America, is registered as a committee that can spend on behalf of others, and the PAC did give away \$350,000 to other candidates in 2021, though that sum is far less than the amount the PAC has spent on Trump’s own properties.

The complaint would appear unlikely to generate any crackdown by the Federal Election Commission, which is equally divided between commissioners aligned with the Democratic and Republican parties, and often deadlocks on contentious matters.

The watchdog agency’s investigations process is also notoriously slow. A complaint to the commission related to the pre-candidacy activities of Jeb Bush, who announced his run for president in 2015, was still in court as recently as December.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Surge of omicron infections prompts lockdowns in China

From news services

BEIJING — Several of China’s largest factory cities have ordered a lockdown, halting production of Toyota cars and Apple iPhones. Theaters, cinemas and many restaurants have closed in Shanghai. The northeastern province of Jilin on Monday banned its 24 million residents from leaving the province or traveling between cities.

China is grappling with its largest surge of COVID-19 infections since the coronavirus first emerged more than two years ago in central China. Sustained outbreaks in two-thirds of the country’s provinces are proving the toughest test yet of China’s zero-tolerance coronavirus policy.

Even as countries in the West are now loosening or lifting mask mandates and other measures, Chinese officials are implementing some of their most stringent methods. That is in large part because China can’t afford to lift restrictions.

The government has been concerned about comparatively lower rates of vaccination among China’s older adults. The country also has far fewer intensive care hospital beds compared to its population than most industrialized countries.

The United States and other Western countries have suffered far higher rates of infection and deaths over the past two years than China and still have higher rates now. But the seven-day average rate of new cases in China, now at 1,584, has more than quintupled in recent days.

China has responded to the current surge in cases by mobilizing its vast Communist Party apparatus to deploy workers and resources.

In Jilin province, where

many cases have been recorded, workers are building temporary facilities to house thousands of people who test positive. Across the country, workers are corralling and testing millions of citizens every day. But that program is starting to be overwhelmed.

China’s virus containment strategy is focused on moving quickly to lock down buildings or neighborhoods.

Homeless under attack: A search was underway Monday for a gunman who has been stalking homeless men sleeping on the streets of New York City and Washington, D.C., fatally shooting two people and wounding three more in less than two weeks.

Police released surveillance photographs of the suspected gunman late Sunday, including one in which the hooded man can be seen holding a pistol in a blue glove.

The killer’s motive — if any — was unknown and authorities turned their attention Monday to trying to offer what protections they could to homeless people who might become targets.

New York Mayor Eric Adams said police officers and homeless outreach teams would focus on finding unhoused people in the subways and other locations and would urge them to seek refuge at city-owned shelters.

Train derails in Congo: At least 75 people have died after a train derailed in Congo’s southern Lualaba province in Kinteta village.

The toll from the freight train derailment last week rose from 60 to at least 75 over the weekend, Lualaba’s provincial minister of interior Deodat Kapenda said. Those dead were likely ille-

gal stowaways, according to U.N. Radio Okapi.

At least 125 people were also injured and have been taken to two hospitals in the region, Kapenda said.

The train derailed as it went up a hill and a number of wagons fell into a ravine, according to the provincial minister of social affairs Nathalie Lunda Ngandu.

Train derailments are common in Congo, where rail lines and carriages are not well maintained. People will often hop on freight trains to travel long distances because of a lack of good roads and passenger trains.

France outbreak: France lifted most COVID-19 restrictions Monday, abolishing the need to wear face masks in most settings and allowing people who aren’t vaccinated back into restaurants, sports arenas and other venues.

The move had been announced earlier this month by the French

government based on assessments of the improving situation in hospitals and following weeks of a steady decline in infections. It comes less than a month before the first round of the presidential election scheduled April 10.

But in recent days, the number of new infections has started increasing again, raising concerns from some scientists it may be too soon to lift restrictions. The number of new infections have reached more than 60,000 based on a seven-day average, up from about 50,000 a week before.

Starting from Monday, people aren’t required anymore to show proof of vaccination to enter places like restaurants and bars, cinemas, theaters, fairs and to use interregional transport. The so-called vaccine pass had taken effect at the end of January.

Boy Scouts on trial: More than two years after the Boy Scouts of America sought

bankruptcy protection amid an onslaught of child sex abuse allegations, a judge will determine whether to confirm its proposed reorganization plan in a trial beginning Monday.

The trial in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware is expected to stretch over several weeks as attorneys and witnesses battle over a host of complex issues, including insurance rights, liability releases, the value of some 80,000 child sex abuse claims and how such a huge number of claims came to be filed.

The Boy Scouts, based in Irving, Texas, sought bankruptcy protection in February 2020 in an effort to halt hundreds of individual lawsuits and create a fund for men who say they were sexually abused as children involved in Scouting.

Although the organization faced 275 lawsuits at the time, it found itself the subject of more than 82,000 sexual abuse claims in the bankruptcy case.

Germany updates jets: Germany said Monday that it will replace some of its aging Tornado bomber jets with U.S.-made F-35A Lightning II aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Announcing the decision, Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said Germany also will upgrade its Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets for electronic warfare — a capability that’s also currently fulfilled by the Tornado jets.

The Eurofighter will be replaced from 2040 with the Future Combat Air System, or FCAS, that’s being jointly developed with France and Spain, she said.

Germany’s air force commander, Ingo Gerhartz, said the current war in Ukraine made it necessary to choose Lockheed Martin’s F-35s.

Previously, the government had considered replacing the Luftwaffe’s Tornados with a mix of different U.S. and European-made aircraft.



Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, receive flowers from schoolchildren Monday outside Westminster Abbey after The Commonwealth Day service in London. The Commonwealth represents a global network of 54 countries working in collaboration toward shared economic, environmental and social goals. CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY

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BUSINESS

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Fed zeroing in on risky pursuit of a ‘soft landing’

Central bank to raise interest rates as first step to slow growth, curb inflation

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday will launch one of the most difficult tasks a central bank can attempt: Raise borrowing costs enough to slow growth and tame high inflation, but not so much as to topple the economy into recession.

With a war raging in Europe and price increases at a four-decade high, Fed Chair Jerome Powell will seek to engineer a “soft landing”: A gradual slowdown in economic activity that helps curb surging prices, while keeping the job market and economy expanding.

Yet many economists worry that with the price of gas and commodities spiking, the additional burden of higher interest rates could choke off growth entirely.

“You’ve got to be both lucky and good” to avoid causing a downturn, said Alan Blinder, a Princeton University economist who served as vice chair of the Fed from 1994 to 1996, when the central bank was

widely seen as achieving a soft landing.

As a first step, the Fed is set to raise borrowing rates several times this year, beginning this week with a quarter-point increase in its benchmark short-term rate. Policymakers will also discuss when and how fast to shrink the Fed’s \$9 trillion in bond holdings, a step that would also have the effect of tightening credit for consumers and businesses.

Such moves mark a sharp turn away from the Fed’s ultra-low-rate policies, which it enacted when the pandemic recession erupted two years ago. By pinning its key rate near zero for two years and buying trillions in bonds, the Fed has kept borrowing costs at historically low levels and helped boost stock prices.

The Fed, by its own admission, underestimated the breadth and persistence of high inflation after the pandemic struck.

The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate, which reached a record low of 2.65% in January 2021, has jumped to 3.85% in the past three months, as Powell has signaled the Fed’s intentions and inflation has

spiraled higher.

By raising short-term rates, the Fed hopes to make it costlier to buy homes and cars and to boost credit card rates and borrowing costs for businesses. The resulting pullback in spending should, in turn, slow inflation, Powell told Congress two weeks ago. Strong consumer spending, fueled by stimulus checks and steady hiring and pay raises, has collided with supply shortfalls to raise inflation to 7.9%, the highest rate since 1982.

“People will spend less, and what we hope to achieve is bringing the economy to a level where demand and supply are in sync,” Powell said at a Senate Banking Committee hearing.

“I think it’s more likely than not that we can achieve what we call a soft landing,” Powell told a House panel a day before his Senate testimony.

Yet the Fed faces an array of uncertainties that will make its task particularly challenging. The economy is still working through shortages of labor and parts stemming from the disruptions of the pandemic.

Raskin’s nomination to Fed post in jeopardy

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, said Monday that he opposes the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin to a key position on the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors, endangering her prospects of winning Senate confirmation.

Raskin’s nomination has been stuck in the Senate Banking Committee after Republicans last month unanimously refused to vote on it, to prevent her being approved on a party-line vote. Manchin is not a member of the committee. But his opposition means that for Raskin to win approval, she would need to pick up a Republican vote in the Senate.

Committee Republicans, led by Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, have opposed Raskin on the grounds that she has been an outspoken supporter of having the Fed consider the threat to climate change in its regulation of banks. President Joe Biden has nominated Raskin to serve as the Fed’s vice chair for supervision, a top financial regulatory post.

Toomey has asserted that Raskin would seek to use the Fed’s regulatory authority to discourage banks from lending to oil and gas drilling companies. Raskin denied that in a February hearing. But Manchin expressed similar concerns.

“Her previous public statements have failed to satisfactorily address my concerns about the critical importance of financing an all-of-the-above energy policy to meet our nation’s critical energy needs,” Manchin said. “I have come to the conclusion that I am unable to support her nomination.”

In response, a White House official said the administration still supports Raskin. She previously served on the Fed’s board from 2010-2014 and as deputy Treasury secretary.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

German strike fuels air changes

BERLIN — More than 1,000 security personnel walked off their jobs Monday at airports across Germany, leading to dozens of flight cancellations and delays.

Security staffers at airports in Berlin, Dusseldorf, Hannover and elsewhere began their one-day strike at midnight to press for higher wages.

The walkouts are part of a wage dispute between Verdi union and the Federal Association of Aviation Security Companies. The union is negotiating with the employers’ association for a new agreement for about 25,000 security staff nationwide.

Verdi announced it also planned walkouts Tuesday at passenger controls at airports including Frankfurt, Hamburg, Stuttgart and Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden.

Turkish medical staffers on strike

ISTANBUL — Thousands of Turkish doctors and other medical workers began a two-day nationwide strike Monday to demand better protection, improved work conditions and higher pay as Turkey suffers soaring inflation.

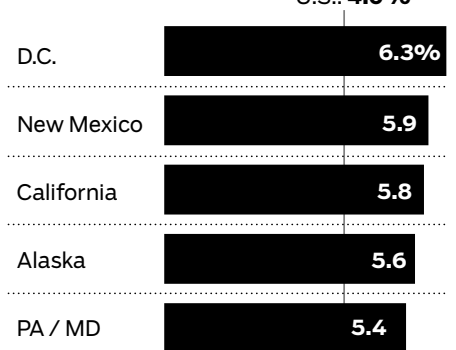
The Turkish Medical Association said that emergency and intensive care, along with COVID-19 treatments, would not be halted during the strike.

Hundreds of doctors have left their jobs in Turkey to seek opportunities abroad.

Turkish President Recep Erdogan announced that a legal amendment would be introduced to specifically include attacks against health care workers. He also promised pay increases and supplementary payments for medical workers.

States with the highest unemployment

Percentage of civilian labor force that was unemployed, January 2022 average, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TNS



Meta, led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg, is reportedly changing as employees prepare for a hybrid work model. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP 2018

Meta aims to end many perks

Changes could be warning for other tech employees ahead of their return to the office

By Mike Isaac, Ryan Mac and Sheera Frenkel
The New York Times

The salad days of Facebook’s lavish employee perks may be coming to an end.

Meta, parent company of Facebook, told employees that it was cutting back or eliminating free services such as laundry and dry cleaning and was pushing back the dinner bell for a free meal to 6:30 p.m. from 6 p.m., according to seven company employees who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The moves are a reflection of changing workplace culture in Silicon Valley. Tech companies, which often offer lifestyle perks in return for employees spending long hours in the office, are preparing to adjust to a new hybrid work model.

The changes could be a warning shot for employees at other companies that are preparing to return to the office after two years of the coronavirus pandemic. Google, Amazon, Meta and others have long offered creature comforts such as on-site medical

attention, sushi buffets, candy stores and beanbag chairs to lure and retain top talent.

Meta has had a difficult past few months, although company officials say the changes to perks are not related. For years, the company dominated the social media landscape. Now it is undergoing dramatic changes as its user growth stalls and younger competitors such as TikTok gain traction worldwide. Investors have been questioning the long-term prospects of the company’s advertising business model.

Its market capitalization has dropped by half, to \$515 billion.

And some employees are debating whether they should be searching for new jobs as they see the value of their stock-based compensation plummet.

Meta discussed the changes to its perks program for months as it explored how to shift to the new, hybrid workplace model, said two employees. The company has also expanded employees’ wellness stipends to \$3,000 this year from roughly \$700 in an attempt to accommodate for removing some of the other in-office perks.

“As we return to the office, we’ve adjusted on-site services and amenities to better reflect the needs of our hybrid workforce,” a Meta spokesperson said in a statement.

Many workers were quick to gripe in the comment section underneath the post announcing the change, according to several employees who viewed the post. Employees asked whether the company was planning to compensate them in new ways and whether Meta had undertaken an employee survey to evaluate how the changes would impact the staff.

Meta executives appeared to have little patience for the questions.

In a tone several employees described as combative, Meta’s chief technology officer, Andrew Bosworth, assertively defended some of the changes and chafed at the perceived sense of entitlement on display in the comments, according to the employees who saw the thread.

Stopping the laundry and dry cleaning service for employees at Meta’s headquarters in Menlo Park, California, ends a famous — if unusual — perk. The laundry service, which was operated by a third party, had free pickup and drop-off around campus and was intended “to make people’s lives easier,” according to a 2020 interview with a Facebook spokesperson.

One employee, when reached for comment on the changes, texted back, “Can’t talk, doing laundry.”

Dutch, Australians press case in 2014 air crash

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch and Australian governments have launched a legal case against Russia at the International Civil Aviation Organization seeking to hold Moscow accountable for its alleged role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17.

The case announced Monday in The Hague and Canberra is the latest bid to hold Russia legally responsible for the missile strike that brought down the passenger jet over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 people on board.

An international investigation concluded that the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight was shot down from territory held by

separatist rebels using a Buk missile system that was driven into Ukraine from a Russian military base and then returned to the base. Moscow denies involvement.

The Dutch government said the timing of the case isn’t connected to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, but alluded to the devastating conflict in its announcement.

Foreign Affairs Minister Wopke Hoekstra stressed that the Dutch government would continue to do all it can to hold Russia responsible.

“The deaths of 298 civilians, including 196 Dutch citizens, cannot remain without consequences,” he said. “The current events in Ukraine underscore the crucial importance of that.”

The Australian government said in a

statement that “Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine and the escalation of its aggression underscores the need to continue our enduring efforts to hold Russia to account for its blatant violation of international law and the U.N. Charter, including threats to Ukraine’s sovereignty and airspace.”

Among the victims were 38 residents of Australia.

The latest legal action comes as the Dutch murder trial in absentia of three Russians and a Ukrainian for their alleged roles in the downing of MH17 continues. Prosecutors have sought life sentences for the suspects. Three of the suspects have boycotted the trial, one is represented by a Dutch legal team, which insists he is innocent.

BUSINESS



The IRS plans hiring fairs. Above, the headquarters in Washington. **CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY**

IRS to hire 10,000 workers to relieve massive backlog

By Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS plans to hire 10,000 new workers to help reduce a massive backlog that the government says will make this tax season the most challenging in history.

The agency released a plan last week to work down the tens of millions of filings that includes speeding up the traditionally slow hiring process, relying more on automated processes and bringing on more contract workers to help with mail-room and paper processing.

Getting it done will be the big challenge, tax experts say.

The agency faces a backlog of around 20 million pieces of correspondence, which is more than 15 times as large as in a normal filing season, according to the agency.

The IRS workforce is the same size it was in 1970, though the U.S. population has grown exponentially and the U.S. tax code has become increasingly complicated.

Additionally, the need to administer pandemic-related programs has imposed an entirely new workload

on the agency.

White House officials have said the agency is not equipped to serve taxpayers even in non-pandemic years.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity Thursday to preview the new IRS plan, said processing returns will continue to be a massive challenge so long as the agency operates on 1960s infrastructure.

The IRS' latest plan to combat the current backlog includes creating a 700-person surge team to process new returns, adding 2,000 contractors to respond to taxpayer questions about stimulus and child tax credit payments and developing new automated voice and chat bots to answer taxpayer questions.

The plan also calls for several upcoming hiring fairs in Austin, Texas, Kansas City, Missouri, and Ogden, Utah, where the IRS will be able to use "direct-hire authority" to allow new hires to begin work within 30 to 45 days of their job offer.

There is no plan to extend the current April 18 filing deadline, the senior official said. Lawmakers have asked

IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig for that deadline to be extended, citing taxpayers' economic challenges due to the pandemic.

The new IRS plan comes as lawmakers have made persistent calls for additional federal funding for the agency.

Congress' mammoth \$1.5 trillion omnibus package, released last week, would provide \$14.3 billion to the Treasury Department, including \$12.6 billion devoted to the IRS. That would be the largest funding increase for the tax agency since 2001.

Caroline Bruckner, a tax professor at the American University Kogod School of Business, said the agency is "at a competitive disadvantage" for finding new staff based on its reputation for employees being wholly overworked. She said she based this on her own survey of tax students she teaches.

Bruckner says along with increased funding, the IRS also "really has to change its narrative and the way it talks about its mission to one of service and being one of the most important anti-poverty systems that we have in the U.S."

As companies leave Russia, could their assets be seized?

Associated Press

The "Evropeisky" mall in Moscow was once a symbol of a Russia integrated into the global consumer economy, with atriums named after cities like London, Paris and Rome.

But now large parts of the seven-story shopping center have gone quiet after Western brands from Apple to Victoria's Secret closed their Russian operations in the weeks since the country invaded Ukraine.

Hundreds of companies have similarly announced plans to curtail ties to Russia as the deadly violence and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine worsens, and as Western governments ratchet up economic sanctions.



People walk past a McDonald's in Moscow. The Chicago-based fast-food giant said it's pausing operations in Russia after that country's invasion of Ukraine last month. **AP**

Russian President Vladimir Putin responded Thursday by saying that if foreign companies shut down production in Russia, he favored a plan to "bring in outside management and then transfer these companies to those who want to work."

A draft law could allow Russian courts to appoint external administrators for companies that cease operations and are at least 25% foreign-owned. If the owners refuse to resume operations or to sell, the company's shares could be auctioned off, the ruling United Russia party has said, calling it "the first step toward nationalization."

Chris Weafer of Macro-Advisory, a consultancy specializing in Russia, said the Russian government "is adopting a carrot-and-stick approach to foreign business," with talk of nationalization balanced out with government help for those who stay. A key reason, Weafer said, is the Kremlin's desire to avoid mass unemployment.

"When it comes to social pressures or potential public backlash, what they under-

stand, I guess, is that people will not take to the streets because they cannot buy a Big Mac," Weafer said. "But they might take to the streets if they have no job and no income."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki criticized "any lawless decision by Russia to seize the assets of these companies," saying that it "will ultimately result in even more economic pain for Russia."

Even before its latest invasion of Ukraine, Russia was already trying to domesticate its food supply following sanctions it had placed on the European Union in 2014. With little to no fresh food imported from those trading partners, Russia put greater focus on domestic food and importing from friendlier countries like Turkey.

Companies like French foods giant Danone, which is suspending capital investment in Russia but continuing production there, are "essentially Russian companies" with local staff and supply chains and can function more or less autonomously of the foreign

owners, Weafer said.

But keeping businesses operating in Russia — even with government intervention — will not be easy. That's because the conditions that led foreign companies to leave Russia are still in place: international sanctions, disruption to the supply chain, and pressure from customers in Europe and North America.

The auto industry has been particularly hard hit by its reliance on foreign-made electronics. Even companies that have stayed in Russia like French carmaker Renault, the majority owner of Russian producer Avtovaz, have had to suspend production temporarily.

Some foreign companies suspending their Russian operations, like McDonald's and cigarette producer Imperial Brands, have made a point of saying they will continue to pay staff even while their workplaces are closed.

But that can't last forever, and Weafer predicts companies will need to decide by the end of summer whether to resume operations or leave entirely.

▲ DOW

32,945.24 +1.05

▲ 10-YR T-BOND

2.14% +.14

▼ GOLD

\$1,959.60 -23.10

10 DAYS

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 32,945.24

Change: 1.05 (flat)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	32,945.24	+1.05	-9.34%
DOW Trans.	15,131.09	-101.88	-8.18%
DOW Util.	976.73	-1.95	-.41%
NYSE Comp.	15,694.35	-59.35	-8.56%
Nasdaq Comp.	12,581.22	-262.59	-19.58%
S&P 500	4,173.11	-31.20	-12.44%
S&P 400	2,547.15	-23.61	-10.37%
Wilshire 5000	41,850.27	-455.36	-13.64%
Russell 2000	1,941.72	-37.95	-13.52%

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	103.01	109.33	+36.96%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.66	4.72	+24.88%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.17	3.31	+42.21%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,959.60	1,982.70	+7.23%
Silver (oz)	25.24	26.11	+8.21%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3017	.7682
Canada	.7797	1.2826
China	.1571	6.3654
Euro	1.0957	.9127
Japan	.008467	118.11
Mexico	.047819	20.9122

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.47	0.39
6-mo. T-Bill	0.76	0.74
5-yr T-Note	2.10	1.71
10-yr T-Note	2.14	1.75
30-yr T-Bond	2.47	2.16

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	13,929.11	+301.00	+2.21%	-12.31%
London	7,193.47	+37.83	+.53%	-2.59%
Hong Kong	19,531.66	-1,022.13	-4.97%	-16.52%
Nikkei	25,307.85	+145.07	+.58%	-12.10%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	13.56	-.74	-50.1
AT&T Inc (T)	22.89	-.30	-7.0
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	102.25	-2.04	-28.9
AgrifORCE Gr Sys Ltd (AGRI)	3.96	+.81	+90.4
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	14.25	+.23	-20.7
Amphenol Corp (APH)	71.49	-2.12	-18.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	150.62	-4.11	-15.2
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.35	-.37	-11.1
Bank of America (BAC)	41.20	+.87	-7.4
Barnes Group (B)	40.99	-.39	-12.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	1999.95	-17.45	-16.6
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	69.24	+.37	+11.1
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.49	+1.02	+1.3
Carnival Corp (CCL)	17.12	-.09	-14.9
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	42.91	-.31	-20.9
Charter Commun (CHTR)	566.14	+6.85	-13.2
Cigna Corp (CI)	226.20	-.66	-1.5
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	44.77	-.05	-10.6
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	1.96	-.13	-64.7
Disney (DIS)	129.03	-2.72	-16.7
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.67	-1.01	-9.2
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	9.82	-.28	+19.3
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.37	+.49	+.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	83.22	-.59	-8.5
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.49	-.08	-44.1
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	81.88	-3.04	+33.8
Ford Motor (F)	15.74	-.30	-24.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.82	-.89	+11.9
Gen Dynamics (GD)	233.83	+1.35	+12.2
Gen Electric (GE)	92.45	+.17	-2.1
Guardforce AI Co Ltd (GFAI)	.91	+.13	-15.7
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	67.50	+.55	-2.2
Honeywell Intl (HON)	183.20	+.96	-12.1
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.49	+.17	-15.3
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	1.39	+.49	+126.4
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	2.11	-.67	-53.7
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.69	+.68	-2.4
Intel Corp (INTC)	44.40	-1.43	-13.8
Kaman (KAMN)	41.62	-.07	-3.5
Keycorp (KEY)	23.81	+.89	+2.9
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.30	-.33	-8.8
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	61.93	+1.35	-9.3
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	38.80	-1.31	-13.5
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	186.63	-.98	-44.5
MetLife Inc (MET)	64.69	+.49	+3.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	276.44	-3.63	-17.8
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.77	+.42	-66.2
Nektar Therapeutics (NKTR)	4.16	-6.47	-69.2
Nielsen Hldgs plc (NLSN)	22.85	+5.34	+11.4
Novartis AG (NVS)	84.07	+1.70	-3.9
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	213.30	-7.70	-27.5
Occid Petl (OXY)	55.59	-2.36	+91.8
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	71.98	-.42	-17.3
PG&E Corp (PCG)	11.19	+.41	-7.8
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	10.50	-.89	-42.3
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.63	+.32	+15.8
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.25	+1.98	-11.5
Pinduoduo Inc ADS (PDD)	25.53	-6.60	-56.2
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.85	-.07	-26.8
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.26	+3.21	+.9
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.53	+.81	-.3
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	97.04	+.12	+12.8
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.65	-.36	-.1
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	76.19	+1.23	-7.1
Snap Inc A (SNAP)	28.00	-2.05	-40.5
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	7.93	-.62	-49.8
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.19	-.35	+11.4
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	144.99	-1.47	-23.1
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	22.75	-.23	-6.4
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.47	-.01	-18.9
Terex Corp (TEX)	37.67	-1.75	-14.3
TMC the metals Co (TMC)	3.19	+.59	+53.4
Transocean Ltd (RIG)	4.14	-.59	+50.0
Travelers Cos (TRV)	177.18	+3.45	+13.3
Uber Technologies (UBER)	29.27	-1.49	-30.2
United Rentals (URI)	320.26	-2.49	-3.6
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	487.92	+5.05	-2.8
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	213.65	+2.01	-28.1
Voya Financial (VOYA)	62.90	+.26	-5.1
Webster Financial (WBS)	57.35	+1.95	+2.7
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	49.86	+1.39	+3.9
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1050.86	+9.57	+3.6
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	55.96	-.52	+13.4
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	69.05	-1.43	-10.8
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	18.63	-1.03	-17.7
Speng Inc ADP (XPEV)	19.75	-3.16	-60.8
Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	8.86	-.19	+38.4

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION



Division has been a dominant theme of our nation's politics in recent years. **FILE**

OP-ED

Can we revive our hopes for the future through compassion for each other?

By **Thomas Cangelosi**

According to a recent NBC News poll, when asked about America's present direction, the top answers were "downhill," "divisive" "negative," "struggling," "lost," and "bad." Further, in the face of this dark outlook, according to the poll, the public's interest in the upcoming midterm elections is down. In other words, many feel alienated, powerless, hopeless or apathetic about changing the course of our nation's downhill slide into the future.

As someone who has suffered from depression, I recognize in the nation's gloomy outlook several characteristic symptoms of my illness, in particular a sense of hopelessness, powerlessness, anger, and apathy.

Freud described depression as anger turned inward. In other words, anger we might feel toward others is, ironically, turned inward against ourselves, often making us feel like victims of injustice, or conversely, like pathetic losers.

Internalized critical voices, in effect, sabotage the individual's

healthy emotional development. And each loss we experience might trigger further self-recrimination. In short, we become our own worst enemy, perpetuating a self-destructive vicious cycle.

This seems an apt description of America's present zeitgeist as toxic political voices turn the nation against itself and arrest its healthy functioning. Just when we depend on government to do its job as we face health and economic crises, Congress and the president have been paralyzed by political in-fighting, fueled by an equally divided electorate.

With an economy that for decades has worked primarily for the benefit of the few, the privileged and the wealthy, the working class left behind feels a justifiable sense of loss, resentment, and anger. And the COVID pandemic has certainly dealt the nation more than its share of loss — in families, in employment, in income, in education, in community, in self-determination, and even in identity.

It seems, that like in a depressed person, the nation's losses have triggered angry

outbursts against itself. Because many feel victimized by an overreaching government, they've angrily attacked front-line workers who attempt to enforce mask or vaccine mandates. Further, COVID fatigue has led to widespread disregard of health protocols, prolonging the pandemic and endangering fellow citizens. Consequently, we see widespread burnout of medical personnel, teachers, parents, and overburdened employees.

So, like a depressed individual, our nation seems to have turned its anger inward, against itself, in a vicious cycle of recrimination that has us spiraling into despondency, apathy and hopelessness. And America without hope is no longer America.

Sadly, its present political dysfunction might devastate its future, our children. Researchers have recently found increasing depressive and anxiety symptoms among youth. Like canaries in the coal mine, our children's depressive reaction to their environment indicates its intolerable toxicity. According to the surgeon general's advisory on "Protecting Youth Mental Health," symp-

oms of mental health challenges might cause serious problems with daily functioning and affect relationships "as in such cases as ... depressive disorder."

Further, "Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can undermine a child's sense of safety, stability, bonding, and well-being," which may create "toxic stress."

But perhaps we can regain a more healthful perspective as a nation by following the therapeutic suggestions given to many depressed individuals. According to Dr. Lisa Firestone, director of research and education for The Glendon Association, "The goal is to help the person develop more self-compassion." Rather than attacking ourselves, we might treat ourselves as friends.

In other words, perhaps we can realize that in a democracy, our political adversaries remain our compatriots, friends and neighbors — ourselves. And rather than turning anger inward against our nation, we might revive our hopes for the future through compassion for each other.

Thomas Cangelosi lives in Avon.

OP-ED

Connecticut needs to support the whole child

By **David Read Johnson**

The past two years have imposed unprecedented challenges on our schools and communities. Schools are feeling the full force of everyday stressors compounded by pandemic fatigue. This has led to an increase in uneasiness, anxiety, outbursts and mental health issues among students, teachers and administrators.

There is an opportunity to address the impacts of this shared trauma proactively. We applaud the Connecticut State Legislature's bipartisan focus on mental health in schools and hope for quick passage of SB 1, SB 2, and HB 5001.

The need for mental health support in schools is not new. Everyday experiences at home and in a child's neighborhood such as neglect, abuse, addiction, financial strain, violence, medical crises, divorce and death lead to states of toxic stress that negatively impact a child's capacity to think, behave and relate to others. Even before the pandemic, many of our students were arriving at school each day with a backpack full of fear, shame, rage and loss.

Children who do not have the tools to handle these stressors are easily triggered, resulting in disruptive behaviors that require time and energy to resolve. COVID-19 has only exacerbated these realities, depriving students of a sense of safety and stretching educators beyond capacity.

Connecticut needs to invest in social models that support the whole child, not only academic achievement. With legislative support, mental health measures in schools should start with open conversations. Children need to know that there are caring, supportive and listening adults



An empty classroom at Yung Wing School P.S. 124 in September in New York City. **FILE**

in the school.

Proactive intervention

Empowering students to share their fears and worries is a big step in helping them bolster their psychological immunity, especially if that groundwork is laid before behavioral issues erupt. Providing simple but schoolwide systems of support is essential, especially those that encourage students to share their opinions, feelings, thoughts and personal experiences.

Preventative programs shift the paradigm from issue-focused discipline to honoring a child's experience and helping kids to build lifelong skills. Every adult in

the school is potentially a powerful social buffer against the stressors bearing down on students. Open conversations, however difficult, are the key to this transformational journey.

Effective and efficient

Solutions will require a transformation in the scope, mission and culture of the school, from merely educating children about how they should feel to creating opportunities for students to share how they feel, providing solace and a listening ear, and being a place where distress can be expressed. This means normalizing the act of asking children what they need, how they are doing, what is going

on with them and what they may need to talk through.

Asking these important questions does not take a lot of time; asking does not take a lot of money; asking does not require experts. Asking only takes courage to hear the truth of what is happening in our children's lives. By funding these efforts, the state legislature can make a significant contribution to the health of our children.

David Read Johnson is a licensed clinical psychologist in Connecticut and is CEO of Miss Kendra Programs and co-director of the Post Traumatic Stress Center. He has worked with schools in several states to provide trauma-informed social emotional learning programs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Apple Cinemas don't serve art-film fans

I went to Apple Cinemas on New Park Avenue for the first time since Bow Tie left and took its practice of showing art, independent and foreign movies in the Cinema City section of the theater. The new owners rarely show anything that's not playing at all the multiplexes, except for Bollywood movies, which don't interest me. Today I saw "The Cursed" there because it was playing only at night at the Buckland Cinemark. So I walked down the hall toward the Cinema City section and it was taped off. I thought the whole theater had been remodeled, but not so. There was the ghost of Cinema City. My wife and I spent many happy afternoons in that section. When I drive by this theater, the parking lot is mostly empty. Maybe they should rethink their abandonment of the art-film fans in this community.

Larry Williams, East Hartford

Lazor should take page from Larson's playbook

In a recent letter to the Courant, Larry Lazor, who is a Republican running to represent the 1st Congressional District, made the all-to-common mistake of telling Hartford residents what we should want without first asking us what we need. Except for a stint as a U.S Army combat soldier in Vietnam, I have called North Hartford my home for more than six decades. If candidate Lazor had asked me, I could have told him that our city's most pressing needs are clear and straightforward — federal investment in jobs, health care support services and more resources to enhance public safety.

Unlike Mr. Lazor, current Congressman John Larson has been very present in our neighborhoods, listening to our needs. His role in securing federal infrastructure dollars will create many new, good-paying jobs. John Larson has a history of listening to Hartford and, more importantly, he then acts to help. When the pandemic threatened local businesses, Congressman Larson brought the Small Business Administration into our community to discuss possible resources. He also brought the Congressional Black Caucus to Hartford to better understand our needs. His office has been closely involved in educating local citizens on ways to pursue rental and other federal assistance. If Larry Lazor intends to represent my city in Congress, he can start by doing what John Larson has been doing for years — walk the streets you're talking about — and listen."

Steven Harris, Hartford

U.S. talks with Iran paved way for Putin

As Russia steps up its aggression against Ukraine, one wonders, why now? The answer might lie in our administration's yearlong course of nuclear negotiations with Iran, which appear to be reaching a dangerous culmination.

Vladimir Putin has undoubtedly been watching the United States concede more and more to Iran as the administration's inexplicable desperation to reenter a failed 2015 Iran deal grows. Putin may have exceptional Machiavellian abilities, but while we may nevertheless respond forcefully in the Ukraine situation, it doesn't require exceptional perceptiveness for tyrants and dictators to recognize that the United States is generally floundering in its foreign policy management. Tyrants and dictators like Putin and the Iranian rulers will continue, sometimes successfully and sometimes unsuccessfully, to try to exploit the weakness, indecisiveness and incompetence in the administration's conduct of foreign policy. We must be ready for a rocky ride and pray for the best.

Mark I. Fishman, New Haven



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Announcements

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IMPOUND - #199 Shih Tzu White &
Grey Male. #200 American Bully,
Male, Grey & White. Call Hartford PD
860-757-4000

Wheels

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PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
209-6629

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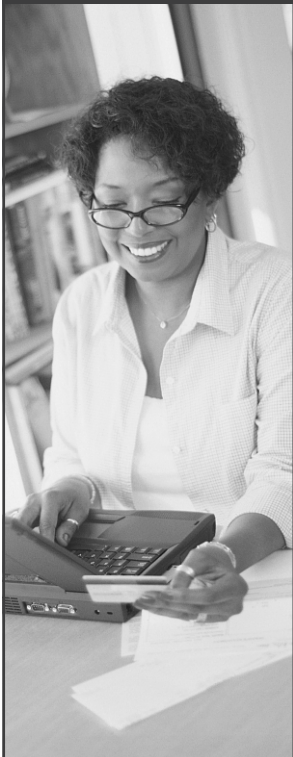
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

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ON MARCH 17,2022 AT 2:00 PM. PLEASE
CONTACT CONNIE AT 860-947-3062 WITH
ANY QUESTIONS.
3/14, 3/15 & 3/16/22 7168518

"Public notice is made pursuant to CGS
22a-134a(j). Notification was filed with
the Connecticut Department of Energy
and Environmental Protection indicating
that soil remediation in compliance with
the Remediation Standards Regulations is
planned at 55 Glendale Road, South Windsor,
CT. Any questions or comments can be
directed in writing to: G0 Environmental, LLC:
Michael R. Granata, 203 Broad Street, C10,
Milford, CT 06460. All written comments
received within 45 days of this notification
will be submitted to the CTDEEP"
3/15/22 7169248

Connecticut

Town of Portland, Connecticut
Invitation to Bid for
Full Depth Repair, Milling and Paving of
Various location(s) on Main Street (RT17A)
and RT 66 State Roadways
Bid # 2022-10

The Town of Portland is accepting bids
for Full Depth Repair, Milling and Paving of
various locations on Main Street (RT17A)
and one location on RT 66 State Roadways.
Bids will be received for Bid #2022-10, until
11:00 a.m. EDT on March 29, 2022 at the
Office of the Director of Finance, Room 204,
located at 33 East Main Street, P.O. Box 71,
Portland, CT 06480-0071. Immediately
thereafter, proposals will be opened publicly.

All sealed bids must be marked "Bid 2022-
10 – DO NOT OPEN" and submitted on forms
in accordance with specifications obtained in
the Office of Director of Finance – Room 204.

All bids will be considered valid for a
period of sixty (60) days. Questions may be
directed to Robert Shea, Director of Public
Works at 860-342-6734.

The right is reserved by the Town of Portland
to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities
or defects in bids, to make such extension as
may be necessary in order to review the bids
and to accept the bid(s) that in the judgment
of the Town of Portland, will be in the Town's
best interest.

Submitted by: Tom E. Robinson, Director of
Finance
Dated: March 15, 2021

The Town of Portland is an Equal Opportunity
Provider and Employer.
3/15/2022 7169771

Connecticut

REQUEST FOR FOOD SERVICE
MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

The Brookfield Board of Education (Board)
is soliciting proposals from Food Service
Management Companies (FSMCs) to enter
into a contract for the operation of a food
service program in the Brookfield Public
Schools for school year 2022-23.

The contract award will allow for up to four
one year renewals, subject to the mutual
agreement of the Board and the selected
FSMC.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be
held on Thursday March 31 at 11:00AM in
the Board's Curriculum Conference Room,
2nd floor, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT. A
cafeteria/kitchen tour will immediately follow
the meeting.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is available
on the Town Website

https://www.brookfieldct.gov, the CT source
bid portal https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/
CTSource/Bidboard and available by request
to Julian.capadose@brookfieldct.gov

Sealed proposals will be received until
11:00AM, Monday April 14 2022, at the of-
fice of the Purchasing Manager, 100 Pocono
Road, Brookfield, CT. Interested parties
may contact Ken Post, Director of Business
Operations, at (203) 775-7629.
3/14, 3/15/2022 7168681

Notice of Permit Application
Town(s): Deep River

Notice is hereby given that Town of Deep
River Water Pollution Control Facility (the
"applicant") of 99 Winter Avenue, Deep River,
CT 06417 will submit to the Department
of Energy and Environmental Protection an
application under section 22a-430 of the
Connecticut General Statutes for a permit
to initiate, create, originate or maintain a
discharge of water, substance or material to
the waters of the state.

Specifically, the applicant proposes to dis-
charge treated effluent of domestic sewage
to surface waters. The proposed activity will
take place at The Town of Deep River Water
Pollution Control Facility located at 99 Winter
Avenue, Deep River. The proposed activity
will potentially affect: Connecticut River and
abutting wetlands.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the
application from Town of Deep River Water
Pollution Control Facility, Attention Peter
Lewis, 99 Winter Avenue, Deep River, CT
06417; (860)-526-6044.

The application will be available for
inspection at the Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water
Protection and Land Reuse, Water Planning
and Management Division, Municipal
Wastewater Section, 79 Elm Street, Hartford,
CT 06106-5127 860-424-3704 from 8:30
to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Please
call in advance to schedule review of the
application.
3/15/2022 7169361

Connecticut

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police
Department is in possession of unclaimed
found property for which the owner cannot
be located.
If you believe that some of this property is
yours, please the HPD Property Room at 860
757-4180 weekdays 7:A.M to 2:30 PM. Be
prepared to provide a detailed description of
the property, the circumstances of its loss,
and proof of ownership as necessary.
Positive identification is required before prop-
erty will be released. If not claimed, items
may be sold at public auction, destroyed,
donated, or released to a finder.
1/4-3/29/2022 7112251

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Newington Board of Education will
be accepting qualification packages for
Hazardous Material Abatement Services,
leading to sealed bids, until Wednesday
March 30, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. in the office
of the Chief Finance and Operations Officer,
Finance Department, 3rd Floor, Town Hall,
200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT 06111.
Proposals will be opened at that time.
There will be a non-mandatory virtual infor-
mational meeting held on Wednesday, March
23, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. Interested parties will
email sfletcher@npsct.org for meeting link
and details.
The qualifications package may be obtained
from the Newington Board of Education web
site: https://www.npsct.org/resources/
current_bid_opportunities

The Board of Education reserves the right to
reject any or all submittals in the best inter-
est of the Town of Newington and its School
Department.

Lucian G. Jachimowicz
Chief Finance and Operations Officer
3/15/2022 7169430

Request For Quotation #02-2123

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
invites licensed contractors to submit quota-
tions to provide parking lot improvements
at a Judicial Branch location in Rockville,
Connecticut.

Quotations must be received by TUESDAY,
APRIL 19, 2022, no later than 11:30 A.M.
Late bids will not be accepted.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BID, VENDORS MUST BE
REGISTERED UNDER THE STATE'S SMALL
BUSINESS SET-ASIDE PROGRAM AND BE
DAS PREQUALIFIED.

Bid package may be obtained by accessing
the Judicial Purchasing Services web site
below.

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action
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3/15/2022 7169568

The Town of Vernon auctioned the following
properties in Vernon to satisfy delinquent
taxes and charges on March 9, 2022:

Mobile home at 2 South Terrace owned by
Joe D. Atkinson was sold to Mohammad
Younis of 78 Parkwest Drive, Vernon CT
06066 for \$5,433.96.

33 Snipsic Street owned by Mark Kalina was
sold to Robert Schroeter of 77 East Burnham
Street, Hartford CT 06112 for \$152,000.00.

37 Franklin Street owned by Mary C.
Papazoglow or her Estate was sold to Jim
Le of 705 Tolland Street, East Hartford CT
06108 for \$172,000.00.

333 Lake Street owned by Estate of Elizabeth
Peterson a/k/a Elizabeth H. Peterson was
sold to Joao Batista of 392 Hawthorne
Avenue, Derby CT 06418 for \$104,000.00.

7 Harlow Street owned by David H. Rivers
was sold to Fernwood Lane, LLC of 58
Townwoods Road, Old Lyme CT 06371 for
\$95,000.00.

337 Center Road owned by Frederick J.
Sharpe and Gloria J. Sharpe or her Estate
was sold to Joao Batista of 392 Hawthorne
Avenue, Derby CT 06418 for \$43,000.00.

120 High Street owned by Kenneth A. Kaplan
was sold to Robert S. Poullos of P.O. Box 25,
Rockville CT 06066 for \$2,500.00.

The redemption period expires on September
8, 2022. If redemption does not take
place by the date stated and in the manner
provided by law, the delinquent taxpayers,
and all mortgagees, lienholders and other
encumbrancers who have received actual or
constructive notice of such sale as provided
by law, are hereby notified that their respec-
tive titles, mortgages, liens, restraints on
alienation and other encumbrances in such
properties shall be extinguished.
3/15/2022 7169379

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bristol
Marjorie Chase Fletcher
Mary Ellen Robichaud

East Hartford
Ann E. Killian
Dorothy Trumel
William C. Turner, Jr.

Ellington
Albert S. Wachsman

Enfield
Eugene A. Berbube

Glastonbury
Carlos G. Benavides
John Craggs
Stephen F Rittlinger

Granby
Christine Kilbourn Jones

Hartford
Loretta Albert
Dorothy J. Giudici
William C. Turner, Jr.

Manchester
Carlos G. Benavides
Dennis R Naumec
Harriet Scoville
Veronica Talbot
Walter A. Vonnhone

Mansfield Center
Janibeth Johnson

Marlborough
John Craggs

Old Saybrook
Gail Clark

Other Towns in CT
Mabel V. Andrews
Leslie K. Richardson
Albert S. Wachsman

Out of State
Mary Ellen Robichaud

Portland
Robert A. Baines, Sr

Simsbury
Christine Kilbourn Jones

Vernon
Walter A. Vonnhone

West Hartford
Loretta Albert

Wethersfield
Ann E. Killian

Windsor
James G Blinn
Thomas V. Hickey

Windsor Locks
James G Blinn

OUT OF STATE
Mary Ellen Robichaud
Saint Albans, ME
Walter A. Vonnhone
South Dennis, MA

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Talbot, Veronica



Veronica ("Ronnie") M Talbot died peacefully on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the age of 88. Born in Roosevelt, New York on April 19, 1933, she was the daughter of William and Mary Matthews. She grew up on Long Island and was a graduate of Andrew Jackson High School in Queens, New York. Ronnie worked as an administrative assistant at United Technologies Research Center in East Hartford for over 20 years. She met her husband, Ray Talbot, in Watch Hill, Rhode Island and they married in 1955. Ronnie and Ray were married for almost 65 years, until Ray passed away in 2020. During their long and loving marriage, Ronnie and Ray traveled extensively to almost all of the states and to numerous countries throughout the world. They loved ocean cruises and enjoyed meeting new people on their trips, many of whom became life-long friends. Their last trip was a scenic train ride through the Canadian Rockies. They loved to dance to the music of the classic big bands and crooners at family functions, outings with friends and weddings and were the envy of all those in attendance. They especially enjoyed spending long weekends at the former Eastover resort in Western Massachusetts, dancing and socializing with old and new friends. Ronnie is survived by her daughter, Patti Cella and her husband, Tom, of Manchester, her son, Bill Talbot, of New Hartford and her grandchildren, Matt, Nikki and Jack Cella, all of whom miss her dearly. Services will be private. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F.

Tierney

TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Naumec, Dennis R

Passed away on Tuesday March 8, 2022 at the age of 75. He leaves behind two daughters, two son-in-laws, two grandchildren, one brother and two nephews. He was an Elks member for 43 years. The family will be having a private burial.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Baines Sr, Robert A



With sadness, we announce the passing of Robert (Chick) Baines, Sr. on Saturday, March 12, 2022 just a week after his 98th birthday. Born on March 5, 1924 to Mildred (Lawrence) and Samuel J. Baines, he was a life-long resident of Portland. Chick began working many odd jobs at an early age to help out his parents. He caught skunks, worms, and frogs and sold them to older residents. He helped his mom make her old-fashioned donuts, which were sold at The Gildersleeve Store where his father worked, he peddled milk for the Bengstons, and worked in the potato fields on High Street. He and his father would cross the "old" Middletown bridge and go to the Airline Railroad freight depot (near the trolley depot in Middletown) to pick up supplies for The Gildersleeve Store. Later, he worked on the Goodrich Tobacco farm picking, plowing, driving trucks and tractors, and keeping night guard in the tobacco barns. After graduating from Portland High in 1942, Chick entered the army where he served in France, Italy, and North Africa. He was wounded at age 19 on the front in Italy by a machine gun bullet (which was never removed from his hip) and by bomb fragments a few days later for which he received two purple hearts. Upon returning from the war, Chick married Margaret Hale and in 1949 they purchased the house on Cox Road where he lived until his passing. He and Margie visited most of the 50 states. They had a lot of fun traveling. He loved mowing, plowing, and repairing his John Deere and Bolens tractors. He cherished his time playing cards with Frank, Donald, Woody, and many others. Chick loved to tinker around the house and could fix just about anything for anyone. He had a keen sense of humor and loved to talk with anyone who would listen. When asked how old he was, he would jokingly answer 101—He nearly made it!! Chick was a seventy (plus) year member of the Portland Fire Department Company #2, serving in many of the positions, finally becoming Portland's Fire Chief from 1972 until 1974. After that, he was chairman of the Co. #2 firehouse building committee. Finally, he became one of the department's "old tymers". He worked for Jarvis Manufacturing in Middletown for 36 years, retiring in 1988. He is survived by his daughter, Peggy Tierney and her husband Tom, grandsons Michael and Patrick (wife Heather) Tierney, daughter-in-law Sandra (Strickland) Baines, and many nieces and nephews. Besides his wife of 54 years, Chick was predeceased by his son, Robert A. Baines, Jr., and brother Ed. Graveside services will be held on Friday, March 18th at 11 a.m. in Center Cemetery, Portland, with full military honors. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, on Thursday, March 17th from 5-7 p.m. Memorial donations can be made to The Portland Volunteer Fire Department, Co., #2, PO Box 132, Portland, CT 06480 (for the restoration of the department's 1947 Mack, engine #3.

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Giudici, Dorothy J.



Dorothy J. Giudici (Aunt Dot) passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at the age of 89. Dot came into this world in Barre, Vermont on August 21, 1932. She was the precious daughter of Josephine and Joe Giudici. She graduated from Spaulding High School in Barre and attended and graduated from Fisher Junior College in Boston. Upon graduating from college, she moved to Hartford, Ct. and ultimately to Manchester. She went to work at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft (UTC) and began what was to become a career which spanned more than five decades. During this time, her employment ranged from secretary in the secretarial pool to executive assistant. During her last years she was an invaluable assistant to UTC corporate officers. In her younger days, Dot was an avid and accomplished skier and golfer. She never missed an opportunity to participate in either one of these seasonal passions. She was truly a world traveler and loved to travel whenever the opportunity presented itself. She loved spending time at Lake Fairlee Vermont and many relaxing weekends were spent there with her family. Her beloved dogs were always at her side. Dot will be missed and will always be remembered for her infectious laugh, sense of humor, and positive upbeat attitude. Dot was loved by all who knew her. She leaves behind a sister, Phyllis Finnie also from Manchester, two nephews Greg Finnie, Tom Finnie and his wife Lea Finnie. Dot loved her grand-niece Lauren Finnie, grand-nephew Chris Finnie, and great grand-niece, Charlotte Finnie. Also left behind are grand-niece Amber Hudson and grand-nephew Kyle Hudson both from Euless Texas. Dot leaves her life-long best friend Shirley Bevans who provided friendship and support throughout the years and especially during her last days on earth. Aunt Dot will be missed mightily because of the amazing light which she brought into the lives of those around her. She is truly an inspiration. Friends and family may call on the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St., Manchester, on Sunday, March 20th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F.

Tierney

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Hickey, Thomas V.



Thomas V. Hickey, 79, of Windsor, companion of 49 years to Janice Allison, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 11, 2022. Tommy was born on February 15, 1943, in Hartford, son to the late Herbert and Mary (Glynn) Hickey. Tommy grew up and spent his childhood in Hartford. He attended The Washington St. School and Bulkeley High School until he and his family moved to Windsor in 1960. He graduated from Windsor High School, Class of 1962. During the 1960s, Tommy proudly served his country with the Army National Guard. He was employed with Pratt & Whitney and UTC for over forty years before his retirement. In his spare time, Tommy loved to be outdoors in his yard gardening and keeping his home in pristine condition. He just loved his home and his yard. Tommy and Janice loved to travel New England and especially enjoyed visiting the Maine and Connecticut shores during the summer months. He was a very kind, caring and generous individual and was always there to lend a helping hand whenever asked and rarely turned anyone away. Tommy also had a warm heart towards animals. It didn't matter the size or species; all forms of life were important to him. Tommy's fun-loving personality will be missed by many, and his memories will be cherished in the hearts of all who knew him. In addition to Janice, Tommy is survived by his three siblings, Herbert Hickey and his wife JoAnne of Crossville, NC, Mary Torza of Windsor and her long-time companion Bob Claffey and Charlie Hickey and his wife Dorene of Windsor; seven nieces and nephews, Kelly Fawell, Nora Miller, Justin Hickey, Joe Hickey, Christina Knauber, Ryan Hickey and Caitlin Morris as well as many grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Tommy was predeceased by his parents and his brother, David Hickey. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022, from 5-7 p.m. at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, March 18, beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Damien of Molokai Parish-St. Gabriel Church, 379 Broad St., Windsor. Guests are asked to please go directly to the church. Burial with committal prayers will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Damien of Molokai Parish, 379 Broad St., Windsor, CT 06095 or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111. To leave an online message of condolence for his family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

C

CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

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Turner, Jr., William C.



William C. Turner, Jr. (Bill), 78, of East Hartford, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, February 26, 2022. Bill was born on July 30, 1943, in Hartford, CT to the late William C. Turner, Sr. and Esther E. Cole - Turner. A celebration of Bill's life will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 10:30am with a visitation from 8:30am – 10:30am at Union Baptist Church, 1921 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120. Interment will be held at Silver Lane Cemetery, 1280 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118. To leave a message of comfort for the Turner family, view the full obituary and live streaming of services, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Brother Carl Hardrick Institute located at the Wilson - Gray YMCA 444 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06120

HKH

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Craggs, John



John Craggs (81) died of Alzheimer's disease on Sunday, February 27, 2022, surrounded by his family. John was born in Panama to the late Gay (Turner) Craggs and Hugh Craggs. He grew up on a coffee farm in Guatemala, leaving when he was 16 to finish high school in the United States. John graduated from Northwood School in Lake Placid, and then from Brown University. He served 5 years as a submariner with the US Navy. He was extremely proud of his military service. Following the Navy John was lucky in settling into a career as a computer programmer, which he absolutely loved. After retiring he was an active volunteer at the New England Air Museum. John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betsy (Thomas) Craggs (the love of his life, thank goodness for a college roommate with a sister!), their two sons Scott and Ken, brother-in-law Lamont Thomas and his wife Jane, and many wonderful cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Gay Craggs Walser and Barbara Craggs Hammond, and by his sweet terrier Lily. Contributions to the New England Air Museum (36 Perimeter Rd, Windsor Locks, CT 06096) or to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation (282 Washington St, Hartford, CT 06106) will be gratefully accepted and put to very good use. Beyond the sunset, a new tomorrow...

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Killian, Ann E.



Ann Elizabeth Killian, 69, of East Hartford, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 with her beloved family by her side at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Hartford on May 21, 1952, a daughter of the late David J. and Theresa "Terry" (O'Brien) Killian, she had been a lifelong resident of East Hartford. Ann was a graduate of East Hartford High School, class of 1970. During her professional career, Ann worked over 25 years at The Hartford Insurance Company in their Law Department. She later worked for the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce for several years prior to working for the town of East Hartford where she retired in 2018 as an Administrative Assistant. Ann enjoyed cooking and baking (especially impressive delicious cakes) for her family and friends. She was also an avid reader and loyal fan of the UConn Women's basketball team. Most of all, Ann loved being a grandmother by spending time, caring and supporting all four of them. Ann is survived by her daughter, Raechel K. Lallier and her husband, Dan, of Wethersfield; three brothers, David J. Killian and his wife, Irene, of Glastonbury, John O. Killian and his wife, Donna Ericson, of West Hartford, Brian E. Killian of East Hartford; four cherished grandchildren, Kaeleigh Rakus, Emma Rakus, Olivia Lallier, and Daniel Lallier all of Wethersfield; two adored great-grandchildren, Colton Carilli and Jameson Carilli both of Wethersfield; several cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Besides her parents, Ann was predeceased by a brother, William A. Killian of East Hartford; and a sister, Claudia R. Killian of East Hartford with whom she lived with. Funeral service celebrating Ann's life will be Saturday (March 19th) at 10 am at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, (Section W), Bloomfield. Ann's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday (March 18th) from 4-7 pm at the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ann's name may be made to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoech.com

D'Esopo

Funeral Chapel

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Richardson, Leslie K.



Leslie K. "Butch" Richardson, 62, of Coventry, passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on March 10, 2022 after a difficult battle with cancer. Butch was born on June 12, 1959 to Lois (Lee) Richardson and the late Franklin H. Richardson and was a life-long resident of Coventry. He was a graduate of Coventry High School Class of 1977 and Westfield State College Class of 1982. It was at Westfield where he met his wife of 36 years, Dianne (Stone) Richardson. Butch was an avid baseball player and in his senior year at Westfield was named team MVP and earned First Team All-New England Division III honors as a catcher. Some of his most cherished baseball memories were from his time playing for Al Abraham's baseball team in the Norwich City League. He was passionate about coaching youth sports. He coached baseball, basketball and soccer. He was an active member of the Coventry Youth Baseball Association's Board of Directors and worked hard to improve the league and maintain the Miller-Richardson fields. In 2005, Butch earned the Secretary of the State's Public Service Award "in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution as a volunteer Coach in Connecticut". He has always been so appreciative of all the volunteers who worked alongside him to bring improvements to the youth baseball program. Butch had a love of the outdoors. He was self-employed as an independent logger and in his free time enjoyed skiing, biking, boating, and camping. He also liked golfing with his father and son. From following UConn I-AA Football, to driving out west, to camping in Myrtle Beach, Butch loved traveling and seeing the country. He took pride in living on his family's land and being independent. He built his own home alongside his father, heated his home with wood he cut, fixed everything that broke, and took care of everyone around him. In addition to his wife Dianne, Butch is survived by his son, Kevin Richardson of Friendship, ME; his mother, Lois Richardson of Coventry; and his sister Karen and her husband David Pierce of Coventry. He was also a beloved uncle to several nieces and nephews, brother-in-law to James Stone and his wife Terrie of Easton, MA, and brother-in-law to Thomas Stone and his wife Donna of Easton, MA. Visiting hours will be held on Wednesday, March 16th at Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home, 2665 Boston Tpke. (Rte. 44), Coventry from 5 PM – 7 PM. A graveside service will be held at Coventry Cemetery (aka New Cemetery), Memorial Dr, Coventry on Thursday, March 17th at 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations in Butch's memory may be made to CSF Dollars for Scholars Inc., PO Box 3, Coventry, CT 06238. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneral-home.com

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OBITUARIES

Benavides, Carlos G. M.D.



Carlos G. Benavides, M.D. Come join us for a celebration of Dr. B's life. Visitors will be received at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Sunday, March 20, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:30 am at St. Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury followed by burial in St. James Cemetery, Manchester. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to MCC Foundation, MS#15, PO Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

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Kilbourn Jones, Christine

Christine Kilbourn Jones, daughter of Dr. Joseph B. Kilbourn and The Baroness Myra von Gussich, passed away March 11, 2022. Born in Simsbury, Connecticut, on April 19, 1939, she was a graduate of Simsbury High School and Hartford Junior College. She worked throughout her career in the insurance industry in Hartford. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Lawrence LaVelle Jones, in 2007, after thirty-six years of marriage. She is survived by her brother, Joseph B. Kilbourn, Jr. Mrs. Kilbourn Jones was a direct descendant of: Thomas Kilbourn, who settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut, from England in 1635; and Countess Anna Maria von Erdody, a sponsor and confidante of Beethoven. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 16th at St. Mary's Church, 942 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. Please visit Christine's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

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Scoville, Harriet

Harriet Puffer Scoville passed away on March 9, 2022 in Brewster, Massachusetts. She was born February 24, 1926 in Hartford, Connecticut. Harriet leaves her son John Scoville (Mary Lou) of Northfield Vermont, and her daughter Carol Scoville Novak (Al) of Dorado Puerto Rico and Harwich Port, MA. Harriet raised her family in Somers, Ct and retired to Dennis, Massachusetts. She leaves several grandchildren; Sarah Scoville Menard (Steve) and their children Gracie and Jax of Beverly Ma., Andrew Mumford (Michele) and their daughter Mackenzie of Coventry, Ct. Ryan Powell (Morgan) and their son Brooks of San Rafael, Ca. Taylor Powell (Sarah) and their daughter Gianna of Palmetto Bay, Fl. And Jessica Wishnick (Josh) and their daughter Sloane of Dorado, Puerto Rico. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to American Cancer Society (cancer.org).

Funeral arrangements made by Chapman Funeral Home, Harwich Ma.

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vonHone, Walter A.



South Dennis, MA –

Walter A. vonHone, 95, passed away Mar 8, 2022, after a full life of patriotism, family and community contributions. He was the husband of June Harvey vonHone and was previously the husband of the late Elizabeth Clark vonHone. Walter was born and lived in Manchester and Vernon in CT before retiring to South Dennis, MA, in 1987.

As a WWII Veteran, Walter enlisted in the Navy in 1944 at just 17 yrs. old and served as a Petty Officer aboard the USS Runels. He served in the Pacific Theater of Operations against the Japanese from Okinawa to the Philippines, then served in the occupation forces in Tokyo. Although always reticent about his wartime experiences they have been captured in occasional stories to his family and news interviews later in life. Each memory was conveyed with great respect and appreciation for his country.

Walter continued his military service in the Naval Reserve, the CT State Guard, the US Coast Guard Reserve and the CT Army National Guard. His military career spanned 45 years in active, reserve and guard duty. He was the last WWII veteran to retire from military service in 1989.

In addition to a 36 year career as a distribution engineer at Hartford Electric Light Company/Northeast Utilities he served many years as a member of the DAV (Chapter 17) and VFW (Post 2046). Walter was Co-Founder of the Manchester Veterans Council and coordinated the Manchester Memorial Day Parade and Services for over 20 years. He was the architect of the Korean War Memorial in Munroe Park and the Soldiers Field Assoc. Monument in East Cemetery both in Manchester, CT. His contributions are remembered by the establishment of the VFW Post 2046, SFC Walter Von Hone Scholarship. He was a member in good standing with Manchester Lodge #73, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for 64 yrs.

Upon his retirement and relocation to Cape Cod he volunteered as a member of the Dennis Water Quality Advisory Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Friends of Dennis Seniors, American Red Cross Emergency Services, Cape Cod Senior Environment Corp and the Harwich Food Pantry. Walter initiated the Town of Dennis Memorial Day Committee and launched the annual Memorial Day Parade. In addition, he worked with the Town of Yarmouth in the establishment of the Pearl Harbor Memorial at the mouth of Bass River and established the annual December 7th Memorial Service. He was an active member of the AMVETS and American Legion on Cape Cod.

His patriotism, integrity and sense of responsibility to his country and his community are legacies that have had lasting impacts on all who knew him.

He leaves behind his wife of 22 years, June, and three children, Nancy vonHone, Karl vonHone and his wife, Amy, and Barbara Ross and her husband, Jerry, and granddaughter, Lauren, and two step-sons, Gary Christiansen and his wife, Debbie, and Paul Ricard and his wife, Heidi, and their children.

Love is the tie that binds a family and will remain forever strong.

Visitation will be held at Holmes Watkins Funeral Home located at 400 Main St. Manchester, CT 10:30 to 11:30 Am with burial and full military honors to follow at East Cemetery in Manchester, CT at 12pm.

Memorial Contributions can be made to Wounded Warriors in Walter's name.

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Albert, Loretta (Girardin)



Loretta (Girardin) Albert, 89, of West Hartford, wife of the late Leo Albert, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, March 12, 2022 after a lengthy illness. Loretta was born on July 27, 1932, daughter to the late Arthur and Adrienne (Boucher) Girardin. She grew up in Hartford and attended St. Peter's School and Bulkeley High School. She worked as a Lab Technician in the Rheumatology Department at UConn Medical Center. She had a robust green thumb, loved dogs and was especially fond of Shih tzus. She loved to travel to Europe, Hawaii and the Caribbean with her husband. She will be remembered for her holiday dinners and pool parties as well as summer picnics at the family cottage along the Connecticut River in Cheshire.

Loretta is survived by her son Craig, her Shih tzu companion "Sockie" and several nieces and nephews. Loretta was predeceased by her sisters Rita Zdanis Winter and Lorraine Farina; her brother Lawrence Girardin and sister-in-law Theresa Albert Bates. The family would like to extend their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the amazing caregivers of Pathway's Eldercare, Faith, Sharon and Stephanie as well as the Hospice caretakers from Accent Care. Calling hours will be Thursday, March 17, 2022 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Brigid Church, 1088 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations in Loretta's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut or to the Connecticut Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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Andrews, Mabel Veronica "Ronnie" (Meehan)



Mabel Veronica "Ronnie" Andrews, 100, of Haddam CT, beloved wife of the late Robert Windsor Andrews passed away peacefully Friday, March 4, 2022 at her home at The Saybrook at Haddam. She was born in Portsmouth New Hampshire to the late Thomas Francis Meehan and Mabel Veronica Meehan. Services will be private at the convenience of the family. Please see full obituary at <https://www.biegafuneralhome.com/>

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Blinn, James G



James G. Blinn, 79, of Broad Brook, beloved husband of the late Mary (Giordano) Blinn, peacefully passed away at home on Sunday, March 13, 2022 with his family by his side. He was born in Hartford on August 22, 1942, the son of the late Howard and Jeanette (Gagnon) Blinn. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was employed as an electronics technician at Hamilton Standard for over 42 years. Outside of work James loved spending time with his grandchildren, hosting and keeping the holiday traditions alive for his family. He also taught art classes at the Broad Brook Senior Center and volunteered at the Radio Museum in Windsor. James is survived by his children, Paula Morabito and her significant other Robert Gilson of Niantic, and John Blinn of Windsor Locks; his grandchildren, Dylan Morabito, Amanda Morabito and her fiance Dustin Seifert, Erica Morabito, Zachary Blinn, and Rachel Blinn; his brother, Danny Blinn and his wife Debbie of Somers; his sisters, Sandy Blinn of FL, and Sandra Borelli of Glastonbury, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife Mary, he was predeceased by his brothers, Richard and Robert Blinn. James's family will receive relatives and friends from 4 to 6 pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St, Windsor Locks. A procession will gather at the funeral home at 10 am on Thursday, March 17, 2022 for a Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 11 am at St. Gabriel Church, 379 Broad St, Windsor. Burial with military honors will follow at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St. I-91 Tech Ctr. Rocky Hill, CT 06067.. For online condolences, please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com.

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Rittlinger, Stephen F



Glastonbury- Stephen F Rittlinger (Pepe), 91, passed away March 10th, 2022, at his home in Glastonbury, CT with his wife by his side. He was born March 14th, 1930 in Hartford, CT, the son of late Stephen A Rittlinger, of Hungarian descent and Stella C. (Drenzek) Rittlinger. Steve's hometown was Broad Brook, CT where he grew up and graduated Ellsworth High School. Steve retired after 38 years in 1991 at Hall and Muska Oil Company of Melrose, CT where he did heating and plumbing and was Vice President and 3rd owner. Steve served in the Korean War. He was a Charter Member of the Enfield Elks Club. He judged foxhound field trials since 1949 and was also Master of Hounds. Steve always owned his own private plane and was a private pilot since 1954. He enjoyed golfing, horse back riding and Cape May, NJ, one of his favorite vacation spots with his family.



Stephen is survived by his loving wife Theresa (Roggi) Rittlinger of 58 years of Glastonbury; one daughter, Judith Woodmancy and husband Darrin of Marlborough, CT, two granddaughters, Rachel Woodmancy, and Anna Woodmancy. Three sisters, Delores Testa of CT, Joan Whitted of New Mexico, Geraldine Vidito of CT, and one brother, John Rittlinger of CT.

A memorial service will be held at St. Catherine's Church in Broad Brook, CT on April 9th, 2022 at 10:00am. Cemetery service will be private to family to follow. St. Catherine's does require masks to be worn. Memorial contributions may be made to the www.DementiaSociety.org/donate. Memories may be expressed at Funeral | Abbey Cremation Service | Rocky Hill.

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Berbube, Eugene A.



On Friday March 11 2022, Eugene A Berube, passed away peacefully at The Suffield House in Suffield, CT at the age of 94. Eugene was born on September 24, 1927, in Woonsocket, RI. He was the son of Henry and Alice Berube, and was one of five children. He lived in Enfield, CT nearly his entire adult life. Gene served his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the final years of World War II. He then served for 38 years in the US Army National Guard, where he attained the rank of Sergeant Major. He was employed as Building Services Supervisor at Newington Children's Hospital for over 20 years before retiring. Gene enjoyed being outdoors, especially caring for his vegetable and flower garden, hiking, playing bluegrass music on his banjo, and working on puzzles for hours at a time. He leaves his three children, Charlyne Olko (Peter), James Berube and Camille Cappiello (Douglas); cherished grandchildren, Peter, Caitlyn, Zeb, Kristen, Michelle, Stephanie and Alexandra, and many great grandchildren, as well as his sister, Shirley Clinton. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by 3 brothers.

Browne Memorial Chapels, 43 Shaker Road in Enfield, has been entrusted with the arrangements. A viewing is scheduled at Browne Memorial Chapel on Wednesday March 16, 2022 4:00-7:00 pm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held to honor Eugene's life on Thursday March 17, 2022 at 11:00 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church 519 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA. This will be followed by burial service with military honors at St Patrick King St. Cemetery in Enfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Eugene Berube may be made to St Marys Church Food for the Soul Program, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow MA 01106, www.stmarylong.org, 413-567-3124. To leave an online condolence message for the family visit: www.brownememorialchapels.com.

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Johnson, Janibeth

Janibeth Johnson was born May 16, 1946 in the Spring Hill Section of Mansfield, CT and died March 4, 2022 in her home in Mansfield Center, CT. She attended Coventry Day School and E. O. Smith High School. In her junior year at EOS, she won the statewide scholastic writing competition with her essay on bird-feeding in winter ("Our Winter Guests"). She graduated Phi Beta Kappa/Phi Kappa Phi from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, with a major in German and English and a minor in theater. Her life-long love of theater blossomed under the inspired teaching of Puppet Master Frank W. Ballard. Over a period of 15 years, Ms. Johnson worked both independently and with the Univ. of CT puppeteers, pioneering innovative techniques in shadow puppet animation for the overhead projector. This included a self-published book, which helped make her an internationally recognized expert on the subject. She taught puppet workshops and coordinated puppet exhibits during this period, and performed with Frank Ballard's puppet opera troupe at Goodspeed Opera House, the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center (Washington D.C.), and with the Hartford Symphony at the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford. In 1987, she co-founded the Puppet Preservation Trust (later known as the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry) to establish the first puppet museum in the State of Connecticut. In the 1980's, Ms. Johnson left Storrs for Willimantic and Hartford, and became active in the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Transgender Civil Rights Movement. Her many other activities included working as a Univ. of CT Librarian, at the Willington Wild Animal Farm, and tutoring English as a Second Language. She also continued her late mother's animal rescue work, and did pioneering research work with Dr. Randy Frost on OCD and chronic clutter. She leaves her niece Alice McKeever and nephew David Johnson, great grand-nieces Morgan McKeever, Sarah McKeever, Kayleigh Johnson and Alexa Johnson, and several aunts and cousins and many special friends. She is predeceased by her father Stewart McNeil Johnson, her mother Mary (Carkin) Johnson, and her brother Seth Johnson. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Frank Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at Storrs. For an online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

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Wachsman, Albert S.



Albert S. Wachsman, age 81, of Ellington, beloved husband of Eileen B. Wachsman passed away on March 11, 2022. He was born November 11, 1940 in Brooklyn, NY the son of the late Michael and Rose (Allen) Wachsman.

Albert was a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and was a proud Air Force Veteran, having



served during the Vietnam War. After his time in the service, he earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford and acquired a job as an Engineer with UTC-Hamilton Sundstrand. After retirement, Albert and his wife, Eileen, went on many trips including Ireland, Greece, and Alaska until their health required them to remain home. In his downtime, Albert loved reading science fiction books, watching UConn Basketball, and watching old western movies. Additionally, he was especially delighted to become a grandfather and spent his last few months regularly asking to see pictures of his grandsons, Seamus and Declan. He especially loved seeing how much his grandson Declan took after him both in looks and feisty personality! He also lit up when hearing about his son Jason's adventures out west, often asking to see the latest pictures from Facebook (which he would call "Spacebook"!)

Besides his loving wife Eileen, he is survived by his son, Jason Wachsman and his wife Andrea, his daughter, Cara O'Sullivan and her husband Sean, his grandchildren Seamus and Declan O'Sullivan, his step-grandchildren Kara LeDuc & Samantha Higgins, and his brothers Frederick Wachsman and Wife Millie Wachsman, Verne Wachsman, Nelson Wachsman, and Hal Wachsman.

A private Burial for family will be held at Ellington Center Cemetery, Ellington. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to The American Diabetes Association. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

Clark, Gail



Gail Clark, 85, peacefully passed away at home with family by her side on March 11, 2022. Gail was born in New Haven and grew up in the Short Beach area of Branford. It was in Branford that Gail met her husband Dave, who preceded Gail in April of 2012 after 52 years of marriage. Dave and Gail had made their home in Old Saybrook since 1968. During her time in Old Saybrook, Gail served the town in several capacities including work with children at Main Street School and as an assistant in the Town Clerk’s Office. Gail and Dave enjoyed time on the water on their boat and traveling to Florida in their RV. Most of all, Gail delighted in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gail is survived by her son Kevin and his wife Hilary, of Deep River; her son Sean and his wife Deana, of Waterford, and her son David and his wife Lista, of Franklin Tennessee. She leaves 9 grandchildren: Benjamin, Ethan, Matthew, Lucas, Sam, Charlie, Owen, Dustin, Alden and Roland and great-grandchildren: Marley, Cameron, Zoey, and Quinn. A Mass to celebrate Gail’s life will be held on Friday, March 18 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John’s Roman Catholic Church, 161 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT. To share a memory of Gail or send a condolence to her family please visit www.rwwfh.com. Arrangements are in the care of the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home in Centerbrook.

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Robichaud, Mary Ellen



SAINT ALBANS, ME – Mary Ellen Robichaud, 60, died March 9, 2022 at a Bangor hospital. She was born November 3, 1961 in Bristol, CT, a daughter of Thomas and Carol (Waldron) Massarelli. She graduated from Bristol Eastern High School and the New England College of Finance in Boston. She was a strong supporter of her husband’s military career and was a dedicated advocate for her autistic son. In addition to her work as a banking analyst she had volunteered extensively.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Curt Robichaud, her daughter, Alyssa Robichaud, and her aunt and uncle, Frances and Fred Massow, all of St. Albans; and her son Jared Robichaud of CT. Mary Ellen will also be missed by cousins out of state.

Funeral services will be held at 11 A.M. Wednesday, March 16th, at Crosby & Neal, 117 Main Street, Newport. Friends may call from 5 to 7 P. M. Tuesday at the funeral home. Spring interment will be in the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta, ME. Memorial donations may be made to the Special Olympics, P. O. Box 626, Albert Lea, MN 56007. Those who wish may leave written condolences at www.CrosbyNeal.com

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
ROBERT MALISZEWSKI



11/01/1948-03/15/2016



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Your loving family



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the story
go untold.






































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Black, Hispanic populations undercounted in census

State officials question accuracy of tally — and what wrong data could mean for Connecticut

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The 2020 census undercounted Black and Hispanic Americans, the U.S. Census says, leaving some Connecticut officials questioning the accuracy of the state's once-in-a-decade tally.

The Census said March 10 that two analyses showed the 2020 Census undercounted Black or African American populations, American Indian or Alaska Native population living on reserved land, Hispanic or Latino population and people who reported being of "Some Other Race."

The Census overcounted the non-Hispanic White and Asian populations, the Census Bureau said. The Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander population was neither overcounted nor undercounted.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said he believed the pandemic and policies by then-President Donald Trump led to an undercount that cheats the Capital City and other municipalities of money and political clout.

Bronin said he and others raised concerns about the accuracy of the count and the Census analysis "confirms there was an under-

count in communities across the country."

"I believe that happened in Hartford," the mayor said.

Hartford lost 3,721 residents, a drop of 3% since 2010 while Stamford leaped to No. 2 from 4th largest, with a 2020 population of 135,470, a 10.5% jump.

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, who led the state's efforts to count residents, said officials anticipated the undercount and reached deeply into municipalities and community groups to make the count as complete as possible.

She began organizing efforts to count Connecticut's 3.6 million residents even before she and Gov. Ned Lamont took office in January 2019.

"We knew going into it as we

were planning what groups most likely were going to be undercounted," she said. "What can we do is to make sure to do the best count possible."

Bysiewicz said 153 "Complete Count Committees" were established, focusing on "traditionally undercounted areas, the socially vulnerable, Black, Latinx, children and Native Americans." Committees worked with the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes, Connecticut Children's Alliance and antipoverty agencies that reach poor residents who might otherwise be hard to track down.

"It was complicated by the pandemic but we did the best with what was in front of us," the lieutenant governor said.

Bysiewicz pointed to estimates

last November by the Urban Institute, a Washington research group, that the Census undercounted Connecticut's population by 2,855 people, a minuscule 0.08% of the state's population that was not officially counted.

The undercount was much larger in certain groups: 4.3% fewer children under age 5, 2.9% fewer Black residents and a 1.5% undercount among Hispanic residents, the Urban Institute said. White residents were overcounted by 0.77%.

Census data are used by the states to apportion political power by setting state legislative and congressional districts. The population numbers also are used to

Turn to Census, Page 2



A Metro North train exits the Stamford station toward New Haven in July 2021. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Lawmakers, residents spar over transit-oriented bill

Affordable housing continues as source of controversy, 'as of right' language draws critics

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

State lawmakers and residents sparred Monday over a proposed bill that would expand the development of land — and encourage some affordable housing — near transportation hubs across Connecticut.

The proposed bill, House Bill No. 5429, would allow for the development of as-of-right housing with a minimum overall gross density of 15 dwelling units per acre located

within a half-mile radius of any passenger or commuter rail station or bus rapid transit station in the state. A municipality with multiple transit stations would be able to calculate the gross density across all of its stations; inland wetlands, flood hazard regions and other areas would be exempted from the regulations.

Additionally, development created under the regulation would need to reserve 10% of housing units for assisted or affordable housing.

The public hearing on the bill

by the Planning and Development Committee marked a return to issues of affordable housing and zoning rights that dominated last year's legislative session and have long been a source of controversy in towns across the state.

"We know exactly what the issues are; we don't need any more study. What we need is for legislators to step up and find common-sense solutions like this one," said attorney Sara Bronin, the founder of Desegregate CT, a coalition of residents and nonprofits that advocates for expanded affordable housing, which backs the legislation.

Bronin noted that the bill would apply to roughly 40 municipalities

across the state with existing transit hubs, from Greenwich to New Haven, New London and Windsor Locks.

Other proponents of the bill argued that it would encourage the development of livable, walkable transportation hubs throughout the state, as well as housing that is convenient and affordable.

Deb Polun, the executive director of the Connecticut Association for Community Action, noted that many of her organization's clients do not own cars and use public transportation to run errands or go to work.

Turn to Transit, Page 2

Flavored vape ban back on the table

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

For the second consecutive year, the Connecticut legislature is considering a bill that would ban flavored e-cigarette products in an attempt to tackle what has become a vexing issue for some parents and public health officials after decades of progress curbing youth nicotine consumption.

Senate Bill 367, "An Act Concerning Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products," would ban the sale of electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products and set new limits on nicotine concentration.

Though used by many former cigarette smokers to manage or end nicotine addiction, lawmakers and regulators have in recent years elevated their scrutiny of the products over fears that their popularity with children may contribute to a generational uptick in smoking with concerning health side effects.

"When nearly 90% of adult smokers today started smoking before the age of 18, and smoking continues to have lifelong health risks that could reduce lifespans and cause serious medical conditions, we know we need to continue to act to reduce smoking however we can, and as early as we can," said state Sen. Saud Anwar (D-East Windsor), who co-chairs the legislature's public health committee.

"Targeting flavored vaping products is a key way we can reduce youth exposure to smoking — as many as 85% of youths using vaping products use flavored products," Anwar said. "Reducing acceptable nicotine levels in these products will go further by reducing the amount of nicotine a user consumes, potentially reducing reliance on the addictive substance."

Turn to Vaping, Page 2

Simsbury resident opposing police gun range plan finds some legislative support

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

A retired Simsbury business executive is calling on state lawmakers to intervene in the planned multimillion-dollar upgrade of the state police firing range, saying it's the wrong project in the wrong place.

"I've lived with this dilapidated range next door for 40 years — the idea of rebuilding it in Simsbury at substantial expense is ludicrous," Robert Patricelli told the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee last week. "It's a gross disservice to our state police to go forward with this plan."

Patricelli testified that former Deputy Budget Director Kosta Diamantis last year rebuffed his request to look deeper for alternatives, and that since then he's gotten no answers from Gov. Ned Lamont's administration or state police leadership.

"I did meet with Kosta Diamantis in 2021, who had responsibility

for this project, and he just shut me down," Patricelli said. "He wasn't willing to consider anything else."

Diamantis quit under pressure in late October and is now at the center of a federal inquiry into school construction funding in Connecticut.

Lamont's administration, however, maintains that it has examined other sites for several years without success and that Connecticut needs to improve the Simsbury range, which frequently floods because it's in a floodplain near the Farmington River.

"Delaying site improvements would put certain critical aspects of Connecticut state police training behind schedule, such as tactical training, strategy and de-escalation," the department of emergency services said in written testimony to lawmakers.

"We can all agree that properly training our law enforcement officers is critical, especially as the state police seek to focus training on minimizing officer-involved

shootings," the department said, adding that a swift improvement of the range will help police keep pace with trooper retirements.

State Rep. John Hampton and Sen. Kevin Witkos, both Republicans who represent Simsbury, have joined Patricelli's campaign to stop the shooting-range project and are looking to the General Assembly to give them leverage.

They've added a provision to a wide-sweeping law enforcement bill that would block Lamont's administration from spending money on the project without approval by five powerful legislative committees. The judiciary committee will decide whether that proposal advances to a possible vote this spring.

"It is clear that additional legislative oversight is needed," Witkos, a retired Canton police officer, said in written testimony. "For too long, this site has been inadequate and a disservice to the many men and

Turn to Range, Page 2

Connecticut agency strips certification from former cops accused of drinking on duty

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A state agency revoked law enforcement certification from two former Norwalk cops who were accused of drinking on duty after they were discovered together in a local hotel during a midnight shift.

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council stripped certification from Sara Laudano and Michael Dimeglio, agency administrator Karen Boisvert said Monday. Both had resigned from the police department last year. The state panel found at its meeting Thursday that both "engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence in law enforcement," Boisvert said.

Norwalk police arrested Laudano and Dimeglio in January 2021, accusing the pair of downing beers in the police station parking lot and another location before

supervisors found them together in a local hotel, both unfit for duty, according to arrest warrants.

Dimeglio faces charges of second-degree larceny and second-degree reckless endangerment. His next court appearance is set for March 24. Laudano also faces second-degree larceny and reckless endangerment charges, along with risk of injury to a minor and is due in court again on April 21.

The investigation began in October 2020, when Laudano, who was 31 at the time, could not be raised on the police radio, police said. Second-degree larceny, a Class C felony, includes a section on stolen property "obtained by defrauding a public community."

The risk of injury charge involved Laudano drinking and driving while her baby was in her patrol vehicle, the warrant for her

Turn to Certification, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

You can help restaurants working to help feed Ukrainian refugees

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Connecticut restaurants are supporting efforts to help Ukrainian refugees by collecting money for relief efforts or donating a portion of their proceeds to humanitarian organizations helping those fleeing the war with Russia. The restaurants are spreading the word through social media and their websites.

One of those restaurateurs is Jamie McDonald, founder of Bear's Smokehouse BBQ restaurants in Hartford, Windsor, South Windsor and New Haven. McDonald is at a refugee camp in Medyka, Poland, on the Ukrainian border, where thousands of refugees pass through every day. He is cooking food for the refugees with other volunteers from World Central Kitchen.

On Facebook, McDonald has been posting daily about what he sees.

"The sadness in this woman's face says it all," he writes on one day. "It's a constant stream of people coming across the border 24/7 and from what I have seen at least 80% women, children and the elderly. A lot of men have stayed to fight off the Russian invasion. You can see the tears in their eyes as they try to hide it from the children and show a brave face. I admire the strength of these people, and at the same time feel so sorry for what they are going through."

Another day he wrote that they had started making baby food as well for the many young children at the shelters:

"The day ended with what I consider the most heartbreaking meal service that I have ever given. We had a group of 50 orphans cross the border as they had to flee the orphanage. Here are children who have no family and have now lost the little security they had in their lives."

To donate to World Central

Kitchen, visit facebook.com/donate/266257409041714. Also, for the entire month of March, Bear's will donate 25% of proceeds from the sale of all sauces and rubs to World Central Kitchen. bearsbbq.com.

Here is a list of other dining-industry companies that are helping the refugees. The list is not all-inclusive.

■ Phantom Brewing Company created a Blue and Gold Ukrainian Pale Ale. It will be available in cans and on draft on April 1. Proceeds will benefit Ukraine relief. The taproom is at 290 Murphy Road in Hartford. phantom-brewing.com. ■ On April 4, Chefs 4 Ukraine will be At the Corner, 3 West St. in Litchfield, in which five of the state's top chefs will prepare a meal, with all proceeds benefiting World Central Kitchen. The chefs are Carlos Perez of At the Corner, Emily Mingrone of Tavern on State, Xavier Santiago of The Place 2 Be, and Ashley Flagg and Kristin

Eddy of Millwrights. Admission is \$100 and is limited to 50 people. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Reservations: 860-567-8882.

■ New England Pasta Company and BeanZ and Co., which are both at 300 W. Main St. in Avon, is collecting cash donations for World Central Kitchen. beanzandco.com. newenglandpastaco.com. ■ Belvedere Restaurant and Café, 82 Broad St. in New Britain, is raising money for Ukrainian relief. belvedere-newbritain.com.

■ For the entire month of March, Charcoal Chef, 670 Main St. in Woodbury, is donating 5% of profits to Ukrainian relief. thecharcoalchef.com.

■ Freskos, the Greek restaurant at 2323 Whitney Ave. in Hamden, has a collection bin for donations to benefit Nova Ukraine. freskos-greek.com.

■ Delicacy Catering, based in West Hartford, is donating 25% of proceeds of Ukrainian food sales to support refugee relief efforts.

delicacycatering.com. ■ Avery's Soda, the New Britain-based beverage maker, is selling a Putin Punch, with 50 cents from each bottle going to Ukrainian Red Cross. averysoda.com. ■ Cake Gypsy, at 35 E. Main St. in Avon and 15 Hartford Ave. in Granby, is donating 100% of the proceeds from the sale of its Ukrainian flag and sunflower cupcakes to World Central Kitchen. cakegypsy.com. ■ Café Transilvania, the Romanian café at 246 Post Road in Fairfield, is donating 10 percent of profits to Ukrainian relief. The restaurant also is collecting money to send to the refugees. Donate at fundly.com. ■ When placing an online order for DiBella's Subs, which has locations in Newington, Wallingford, Hamden and Milford, there is a donation button for World Central Kitchen. dibellas.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Transit

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"This bill isn't just about people who commute to New York City," Polun said. "It's about people getting around within the state of Connecticut as well."

Sean Ghio, the policy director for the Partnership for Strong Communities, argued that Connecticut has "under-built" housing for decades, resulting in rents that, now, have "skyrocketed."

"This bill will increase mixed-income housing near transit, helping meet Connecticut unsatisfied demand for new housing, market-rate and affordable," he said.

Lawmakers and residents on both sides of the aisle raised concerns about the bill — particularly leaders from Fairfield County, who made the case that, while they supported affordable housing and transit-oriented development, the

proposal did not make sense for their communities.

"I really urge you to take a more nuanced look and not treat every single train station, whether it's Fairfield Metro or Bethel or Green's Farms or Southport, the same way," said Danielle Dobin, Westport's planning and zoning commissioner.

While expressing strong support for affordable housing efforts, state Rep. Stephanie Thomas, a Norwalk Democrat, said that the bill would not work well for the towns she represents, partly due to the high cost of land in Norwalk, Westport and Wilton.

"We can't rely on the private sector to solve our affordable housing crisis and I think the sooner we recognize that, the closer we'll be to a solution," Thomas said, adding that developing valuable land for small numbers of affordable units would "not move the needle given the likelihood of how few lots will become available in the next several

decades."

The "as of right" zoning language in the legislation — which typically means that developers would not have to go before a public hearing or under review by a town's zoning board — emerged as a point of tension during the hearing, as it has in previous affordable housing debates.

State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport, said that while he supported transit-oriented development, "this bill is not the way to do it." He argued that local zoning boards should be able to "customize" developments and that transit areas in shoreline communities are "very different" from those along Hartford rails lines, as they are often surrounded by beaches and existing developments.

"As of right for many of us is fast becoming as of wrong," he said.

At one point, Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo and state Rep. Michael Winkler, D-Vernon

, disagreed over the "as of right" designation of the legislature.

"What are you afraid of, having the town weigh in? Why would you want to handcuff the local zoning boards?" Camillo said.

"I'm saying as-of-right already exists and you don't know it," Winkler said, pointing out that single-family houses are, for the most part, developed without public weigh-in.

Later in the hearing, Bronin returned to the issue, noting that if the legislation were to pass, "towns would identify through a public process" how they would meet its development goals. Moreover, she noted, in many towns in Fairfield County, the vast majority of housing is as-of-right, including 97.7% of Westport and 98.4% of Greenwich, which are zoned for single-family housing.

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Vaping

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Nationally, an estimated 34% of high school students reported ever using a tobacco product, and 11.3% reported e-cigarette use within the previous 30 days, according to the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey.

Fifty-one Connecticut patients had been hospitalized with vaping-associated lung injuries as of Jan. 21, 2020, according to the most recent data from the state Department of Public Health. Eight of those patients were under the age of 18, and 15 were between 18 and 24.

The popularity of the flavored products among younger users is a point of concern for Kim Estes, a physical therapist from Oxford, Conn.

Estes, a mother of two 16-year-old boys, said one of her sons was "lured in" by the smell and taste of a bubble gum-flavored nicotine product when he was 10. He has been addicted ever since, she said.

"The smell and taste of nicotine is not appealing to children normally," Estes told The Courant. "The flavorings make it palatable, even attractive."

Flavored e-cigarettes were used by 76.0% of adults who currently vape, according to a 2021 study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, but were used in greater numbers (89.6%) in adult users ages 18-34.

Estes said she wants to "get the word out more and more about how dangerous this is, and how addictive nicotine is, because it is at such a high concentration."

Curbing the nicotine concen-

tration in e-cigarette products is another element of Senate Bill 367, which would set the limit at 35 milligrams per milliliter — roughly the same amount as a pack of cigarettes (the average cigarette contains about 10 to 12 milligrams of nicotine each, but only some of that is inhaled by the user.)

The legislature's public health committee, which introduced the bill, held a public hearing Monday on the bill and other proposals that included testimony from several advocates and public health researchers touting the merits of a flavored product ban.

Study called into question

Anwar was particularly moved by the revelation that a major study, one on which many of the anti-flavor ban arguments hinge, might be fraught due to a quirk in data collection.

The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, oft-cited by flavored nicotine product advocates, found that cigarette usage among San Francisco high school students increased after the city imposed a ban on flavored nicotine products.

But this data is misleading, according to Jessica Liu, a Harvard researcher and doctoral candidate at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health.

Liu told the committee that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the data for the study was actually collected in the fall of 2018 — before city began to enforce the ban in January 2019.

"The 2019 YRBSS survey predated the enforcement, and

therefore should not be used to evaluate the effect of the policy," Liu told committee members.

Liu said these findings are contained in a peer-reviewed study that will soon be published.

Cheryl Richter, a Stamford resident who serves as the executive director of the New York State Vapor Association, suggested that a ban on retail sales of flavored nicotine products wouldn't decrease youth usage, but would lead to an increase of "black market" sales.

Instead, Richter suggested lawmakers limit the sale of such products to venues that require people be 21 or older to enter. "When you have these products in every gas station, convenience store, grocery store and deli, right next to candy, that's where the kids are seeing it," she said.

Equity and finances

A ban on flavored e-nicotine products, including menthol products, has also raised health equity questions.

Mitch Zeller, director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, has acknowledged that African Americans and other certain populations have been disproportionately impacted by tobacco use.

The CDC notes that "Historically, the marketing and promotion of menthol cigarettes have been targeted heavily toward African Americans through culturally tailored advertising images and messages."

According to Anwar, state finances also may have played a role in discussions.

"When we were trying to ban the menthol, there was a big argument that it's gonna have an impact on

the finances of the state because, unfortunately, the state makes tax dollars from that," Anwar said. "And that's part of the reason that we got such pushback from powerful parts of our state."

A ban on menthol cigarettes was not included in last year's proposal either, but Gov. Ned Lamont continues to support a ban on other flavored products.

Connecticut's relationship with Big Tobacco was scrutinized by some when it was announced last fall that Philip Morris International had chosen Stamford for its new headquarters, relocating 200 jobs from New York City.

Philip Morris International is a separate publicly traded company from Altria, which operates subsidiaries including Philip Morris USA. Altria in 2018 purchased a 35% stake in Juul Labs Inc, a popular e-cigarette startup.

Altria has since written down more than 85% of its original investment in Juul according to a recent regulatory filing, Reuters reported.

"I don't feel that I can comment directly on how Philip Morris International could impact Connecticut's tobacco control policies," said Meredith Berkman, a co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes, a national advocacy group.

"Our fervent hope and belief is that legislators will do the right thing, and end the sale of all flavored vaping products, because they understand that the research shows over and over flavors addict kids to these products," Berkman said.

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Certification

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arrest says. The warrants say the baby's father is Dimeglio, who was 38 at the time of the incidents.

On Oct. 10, both officers were supposed to be on early-morning patrol. But at 12:47 a.m., a dispatcher could not reach Laudano by radio or on her cellphone, police said. A vehicle locating system showed her marked Ford Explorer at the EVEN Hotel, 426 Main Ave., where police found the SUV with empty beer packaging on the front seat, and Dimeglio's Ford Crown Victoria in the parking lot, police said.

Hotel management said the two officers were in a room. A police sergeant said Dimeglio answered the door in his uniform, but barefoot with his shirt untucked and not wearing his equipment belt, the warrant said. Dimeglio asked the sergeant, "Did I miss a call?", the warrant says. Laudano was in the bathroom, police said.

"The officers were not in a condition to respond to calls for service," a news release said.

Both were relieved of duty and placed on administrative leave.

Through witnesses at a local restaurant and liquor store, surveillance footage and DNA testing of discarded beer bottles, investigators found that both Laudano and Dimeglio were drinking beers and "peanut butter shots" at a local restaurant just before going on duty on Oct. 9 and that they continued drinking during their patrol shift that night in a side lot of police headquarters and another lot, warrants for their arrests say.

Surveillance video showed Laudano's vehicle near a liquor store at about 5:40 p.m. A civilian friend who had been drinking with Laudano at the restaurant was a passenger in the Explorer, which police rules do not allow, the warrant said. Laudano's friend bought a six-pack of Blue Point Mother Pumpkin Ale and a four-pack of Ithaca Flower Power beer and paid the \$24.97 bill with Laudano's American Express card, the warrant says.

Laudano's friend had been caring for Laudano's baby, and the officer drove the woman and baby to meet a person described in the warrant as Laudano's wife to drop off the baby. Laudano's friend told police that besides drinking several beers, both she and Laudano took hits from a vaping device loaded with a THC cartridge.

Dimeglio, whose hourly rate for the overtime shifts on Oct. 9 and 10 was \$66.12, answered a burglar alarm with another officer on the evening shift and drew his gun during a search of a home, police said. The warrant said an officer drawing his weapon while searching for potential intruders was not uncommon, but Dimeglio had been drinking just before answering the call.

The warrant also says Dimeglio had been caught sleeping on duty on March 14. He had been dispatched to a call, but did not answer and was later found at his home in the city, police said. Dimeglio had been with the department for eight years and Laudano for five, a press release said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Range

from Page 1

women of the Connecticut state police who must utilize the facility for training purposes."

"Many other towns (Willington, Griswold and Voluntown) have already opposed this project for an outdoor range due to concerns of noise, disruption and loss of property value, and we believe it is not right for our community either," Hampton said in written testimony.

Rep. Doug Dubitsky, of Chaplin, pointed out that the state has pitched the idea of a firing range in several communities, but consistently has hit opposition.

"Nobody wants this thing. Everybody agrees it needs to exist somewhere, but nobody wants it in their

town," Dubitsky said during the hearing. "If not in Simsbury, then where?"

State police have used the outdoor range in Simsbury for many decades, even though it's not centrally located or easy to reach from a highway. That means troopers from outlying barracks around the state can spend hours driving there and back.

The biggest problem with the site is the tendency to flood; water levels can stay high for days or longer, leading to costly rescheduling of shooting practice.

The state has authorized \$2 million to start upgrading some of the buildings, but Hampton and others expect the cost could top \$10 million to complete the plan to put them on stilts.

"Several years ago, the state police

rightly recognized the fact that Nod Road simply did not suit the needs of their agency," Witkos said.

"The state police voiced their desire for a property upwards of 100 acres, the flexibility to create both indoor and outdoor training areas, and above all, a property that would allow the agency to truly train and prepare their personnel for a variety of scenarios. The existing facility, even after being upgraded, would still fail to meet the needs of the department."

Patricelli suggested Connecticut build a state-of-the-art indoor range and tactical training facility on the grounds of the Meriden police academy.

It could probably be done for something in the field of the \$21 million facility that Virginia built in 2020, he said. The state might be

able to use federal infrastructure grants to cover some of the cost, Patricelli suggested.

"You raised any number of very valid points," Sen. John Kissel, an Enfield Republican, told Patricelli.

The remote location of Simsbury along with the flooding and risk of lead contamination to the river make it the wrong place for the range, Kissel said.

"Geographically I don't necessarily have a dog in this fight, but I'm well aware of what the state police are looking for," he said. "Whether they get the indoor, all-purpose \$25 million shooting range of their dreams, I don't know if we'll go that far. But whatever we settle on has to be more centralized."

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Census

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steer billions of dollars from Washington for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, highway spending and numerous other programs.

Connecticut's overall population increased by 31,847, enough

to prevent the state from losing a Congressional seat. The state became more diverse since the 2010 census. The population of non-Hispanic whites decreased by 10%, while the number of Black residents grew by 8%. The number of Hispanics of any race rose by 30% and the Asian population increased by 27%.

The Census Bureau said the qual-

ity of the 2020 Census total population count is consistent with that of recent counts and is "notable, given the unprecedented challenges of 2020," particularly COVID-19. The census undercounted many of the same population groups it historically undercounted and overcounted others, it said.

Two estimates by the Census Bureau consider whether certain

groups were undercounted, meaning the census likely missed some people, or if they were overcounted, indicating that some were counted more than once while others may have been incorrectly included.

Bronin said a combination of factors led to an undercount. Residents fearful of contracting COVID-19 did not open their doors to census representatives and

Trump's ultimately unsuccessful efforts to exclude undocumented immigrants from the count stoked fears among immigrants, he said.

"It may have to wait 10 years until this is rectified," he said. "I hope it sparks a broader conversation."

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CONNECTICUT

Prisoner, former inmate file suit against state over prison debt

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

An inmate and a former prisoner filed a federal lawsuit Monday against Gov. Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong in hopes of getting rid of a state law that requires former inmates to pay for the time they spent in jail, according to the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Connecticut.

They also are seeking the court's permission to make it a class-action lawsuit on behalf of tens of thousands of present and former incarcerated people, said Meghan Holden, an ACLU spokeswoman.

Every inmate owes hundreds of dollars for each day behind bars, said the ACLU in a news release. Lawyers from the ACLU and from Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg & Knuff LLC represent Michael Llorens and former prisoner Teresa Beatty on behalf of every-

one owing prison debt to the state because they were incarcerated on or after Oct. 1, 1997 — about 30,000 people, according to the lawsuit.

The suit challenges Connecticut's prison debt law under the excessive fines clause of the U.S. Constitution, the ACLU said.

Elizabeth Benton, a spokeswoman for Tong, said staff members were reviewing the lawsuit and could not comment on its specific claims. State statutes require the state to recover the cost of incarceration, she said, and the job of placing liens on former prisoners falls to the Department of Administrative Services. There is a proposal at the legislature to repeal the statute, she said.

"The Office of the Attorney General becomes involved in certain contested cases but has had no involvement in the specific cases involving Ms. Beatty or Mr. Llorens," she added.

Beatty, of Stamford, was in

prison on drug charges from 2000-2002, the ACLU said. Today, she is a certified nursing assistant, a mother, a grandmother and a caretaker for her older brother, who is disabled. In 2020, her mother died, leaving her part of the money from the eventual sale of the home where Beatty, her brother and her family live.

"Once that home is sold, Ms. Beatty will desperately need her inheritance to put a roof over her and her family's heads," the organization said. But the state "came after Ms. Beatty, demanding \$83,762.26 for her time in custody, including when she was incarcerated pre-trial because she could not afford bail."

Llorens, who is serving time for burglary, "owes the government of Connecticut an astonishing \$272,655 in prison debt for his three-year sentence," the lawsuit said.

Under Connecticut's prison debt

law, the state charges people \$249 dollars a day, or \$90,885 a year, for the cost of their incarceration, the ACLU said, adding that the amount is more than what an in-state student would owe for 2.5 years of attendance at the University of Connecticut, including housing, food and books.

The debt follows the former prisoners for years, decimating inheritances and even settlements from lawsuits filed against the state by inmates who were harmed in prison, the ACLU said.

"Connecticut's prison debt laws inflict a form of extreme punishment that locks people, especially Black and Latinx people, into unbelievable debt that can haunt them and their loved ones even after their deaths," said Dan Barrett, ACLU's legal director and an attorney in the case. "The law also rewards the state's own bad behavior by collecting money from payouts in prison brutality

lawsuits and funneling that money right into the general fund. Attorney General Tong and Governor Lamont should immediately cease using these statutes."

David Slossberg of Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg, & Knuff said, "Connecticut's prison debt law flies in the face of the idea that someone has paid their debt to society after lawfully serving their prison sentence. It is unconstitutional and morally abhorrent. Anyone caring about social justice in our state should care that this law is being used every day."

Beatty said the case is "not just about me, it's about the tens of thousands of people coming out after me. I am speaking out because I don't want anyone else to go through what I'm going through."

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Exploring community with Long Wharf's 'Dream Hou\$e'

A play about leaving one's home feels synchronistic at a regional theater company about to leave its home

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

What's it like to direct a play that you know is going to be one of the very last shows at a space that has been associated with one of the country's great regional theater companies for 57 years?

"It's all I can think about," says Laurie Woolery.

Woolery is directing Eliana Pipes' comic drama "Dream Hou\$e" at Long Wharf Theatre. Last month the Long Wharf's artistic director, Jacob Padron, announced that at the end of its current season the theater would be leaving the 22 Sargent Drive theater space it has leased since 1965. The season has just two shows left in it: "Dream Hou\$e," running today though April 3, and "Queen" by Madhuri Shekar May 17 through June 5.

"I'm from the West Coast," Woolery says, "and all I've heard about is the legacy of the Long Wharf."

Known for her skill in working on new plays, Woolery has directed several times at Yale Repertory Theatre. She was the associate artistic director of Cornerstone Theater Company, which originated as an itinerant company creating theater in small communities around the country. For the past 10 years she has been engaged in similar work as the director of the Public Works theater program at the Public Theater in New York City that brings the city's residents into the creative process. Among other projects, Public Works runs a community initiative called ACTivate (which stands for "Artist, Citizen, Theater maker") and will be remounting its acclaimed production of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" in New York's Central Park this summer. The Long Wharf became a national affiliate of Public Works in 2019.

Woolery likes how the Long Wharf theater building is prominent and nondescript at the same time, nestled in the loading docks along I-91 and the harbor. It's a historic landmark, "but driving up to it, you're saying, 'Where's the theater?'"

"I was really heartbroken," Woolery says, to hear of the Long Wharf's plans, especially after spending time in the space. But she understands the realities of the situation, and also Padron's long-held desire to bring Long Wharf's work closer to the New Haven community from the outskirts of the city. She's known Padron since he was a student at the Yale School of Drama around 15 years ago. Woolery and Padron are co-founders of the Sol Project, which encourages the creation of new works by Latinx playwrights.



Darilyn Castillo, left, and Marianna McClellan in Eliana Pipes' "Dream Hou\$e," playing today through April 3 at the Long Wharf Theatre. This photo is from the show's premiere at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta in January. GREG MOONEY/COURTESY

"I have great hopes for Long Wharf the institution," Woolery says. "This team is really changing the ethos of that place. They care greatly for artists."

As for the place of "Dream Hou\$e" in the current mindset of Long Wharf, "Ileana and I were just talking about this," Woolery says. "That we are doing a play about losing your home, about grief and loss, and that we are the penultimate play happening in that space."

"In situations like this, when art aligns with the pulse of the community, is when art is in its sweetest spot."

Beyond those synchronistic vibes, Woolery says her work situation at the theater has been unaffected by the impending move.

"The Long Wharf has been holding us so beautifully through the process," she says. "You would never know that they are going through something this big."

The play is described on the Long Wharf website as: like this: "Two Latinx sisters guest star on an HGTV-style reality show to sell their family home in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood of Hilo Villa. As they perform for the camera, one sister grapples with turmoil in the family's ancestral past while the other learns how much she's willing to sacrifice for the family's future. What is the cultural cost of progress in America? And is cashing in always selling out?"

"We're in their home," Woolery explains, "but the play goes back and forth to the game show. Reality TV is a big part of it."

"Dream Hou\$e" premiered in January at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. After the Long Wharf, the show moves to Baltimore Center Stage in Maryland in April. Each space has had its challenges.

"It feels really right in this space," Woolery says, speaking of the Long Wharf's thrust stage and high ceil-

MORE INFORMATION

"Dream Hou\$e" by Eliana Pipes, directed by Laurie Woolery, runs today through April 3 at the Long Wharf Theatre, 222 Sargent Dr., New Haven. Performances are Tuesday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 2 and 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$59. longwharf.org.

ings. "We're mindful to keep it flowing so all three sides of the auditorium can see."

Two of the three main cast members — Darilyn Castillo and Marianne McClellan — are at all three theaters. The third original cast member had to leave the show after Atlanta for a film role, and the role has been recast with Renata Eastlick, but the supporting cast of reality show TV crew members is different at each theater, drawn from local talent and strengthening the concept of community-oriented theater.

"It's familiar but different. It's amazing to feel," says the director. "I'm so happy for Eliana. It's rare that shows get several productions, because everyone usually wants just to have world premieres."

Woolery says she and Pipes are taking the New Haven run to do a little "rewriting and resifting. Eliana's very smart and talented, very collaborative as a playwright, and I'm very much a roll-up-your-sleeves director."

"This is an incredible play that is very layered. So many things are happening. It spins on itself over and over. It asks, 'How are you contributing to a community?' There's no right or wrong answer; it just makes you ponder that."

In a place that is doing its own pondering of home and community.

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Nursing home background-check legislation sees strong opposition

By Dave Altimari
CT Mirror

A bill that would require long-term care facilities to check if prospective residents have a criminal history or are on the sex offender registry before they are admitted has drawn some heated opposition from organizations representing providers and an advocate for abolishing the sex offender registry.

The bill is sponsored by state Sen. Saud Anwar, whose district includes East Windsor, home of the Fresh River Healthcare nursing home. Last May, Miguel Lopez, a convicted rapist and a registered sex offender in Massachusetts with a warrant out for his arrest at the time, allegedly locked a female employee in his room at the nursing home and tried to force her to perform a sex act.

Fresh River officials sent Lopez back to Massachusetts the same day that the incident occurred. He was eventually arrested on a warrant by East Windsor police and charged with attempted first-degree sexual assault, third-degree sexual assault and first-degree unlawful restraint. He is being held in lieu of \$300,000 bail. His next court appearance is March 29.

Lopez wasn't known to local police at the time he was admitted to Fresh River Healthcare because of a loophole in Connecticut's sex offender laws, which do not require nursing home operators to inform state police when they admit a registered sex offender from another state into one of their facilities.

The law currently places the burden on sex offenders themselves to register, but Anwar wants to hold the nursing home providers more accountable by requiring them to determine whether any potential resident is a registered sex offender by seeking a criminal background check through the state Department of Public Health.

The bill would bar long-term care facilities from admitting people with a "disqualifying offense" without a waiver. Disqualifying offenses range from assault, rape and kidnapping to burglary, criminal mischief and trespassing.

Mag Morelli, president of LeadingAge Connecticut, an association representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults, told the Public Health Committee during this week's public hearing that "from an implementation perspective, this proposal raises numerous concerns."

"It appears that the facility will be barred from admitting an applicant until it receives notification of the background check from DPH. It is unclear how long an available bed might need to be held open for the duration of a background check," Morelli said.

"Moreover, many applicants on waiting lists will need to be rechecked each time a bed becomes available given that a

prior background check only remains effective for one month. While there are exceptions for short term rehab admissions, or for conditional admissions of 60 days or less, these situations will be affected by the discharge and eviction limitations discussed above," Morelli said.

She suggested that the committee convene a work group to evaluate and address the concerns that led to the bill being raised rather than pass the proposal.

Others in opposition to the bill said that legislators were overreacting to an isolated incident and that the legislation as proposed would punish more people than it would help.

"The proposal is extremely overbroad and would potentially disqualify anyone, including a vulnerable or elderly person, from admission to a long-term care facility, nursing home, or an assisted living facility because they were convicted sometime in their life of certain offenses, even if such conviction occurred decades before," said Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, legal counsel for the Office of the Chief Public Defender.

Sullivan said that crimes for which a person could be denied admission include breach of peace, criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

"While serious violent offenses are included in the list of disqualifying offenses, there is no look-back in the proposal," Sullivan said. "As a result, a person convicted of a felony while in their late teens or twenties would not be admitted even if 10, 20, 30 or more years had passed since the conviction."

At one point, Anwar and Cindy Prizio, executive director One Standard of Justice, an advocate for restorative justice practices and a critic of the sex offender registry, got into a heated argument about the bill after she called it "a public policy disaster in the making" during her testimony.

"Please don't allow one sensational crime to turn good intentions into bad policy," Prizio said. "We all want to protect our vulnerable populations. OSJ stands ready to provide help to the committee in developing an effective solution."

Prizio said there's no "need to create a new bill every time there is an isolated high-profile incident" and that the bill is unfair to a class of people who already have had their rights "sucked dry by the system."

Anwar responded that his bill is simply protect nursing home employees who had no idea a registered sex offender had been admitted to their facility.

"This provides a safety net for the people who work in long-term care facilities," Anwar said. "There is a risk assessment that will need to be done, and that doesn't mean someone still can't be admitted to a facility, but just that the people who work there will know who they are taking care of."

Tickets go on sale this month for encore of 'Hamilton' at Bushnell

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

As the grand return of "Hamilton" to Hartford draws closer, The Bushnell has announced that tickets will go on sale to the general public on March 24 at 10 a.m.

The show remains a massive international hit, having returned to Broadway in September after a long COVID hiatus. It plays the Bushnell June 22 though July 10.

There are currently three different touring casts of "Hamilton." Hartford is getting what's called the "Philip" tour, which stars

Pierre Jean Gonzalez as Alexander Hamilton, Jared Dixon as his frenemy Aaron Burr, Stephanie Jae Park as Eliza Hamilton, Ta'rea Campbell as Angelica Schuyler, Warren Egypt Franklin as the speed-rapping Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson and Neil Haskell as King George III.

Tickets can be bought in person at The Bushnell box office at 166 Capitol Ave., by calling the box office at 860-987-5900, or by buying online at bushnell.org. Tickets are limited to nine per account, and cost \$59 to \$159 apiece. There are also premium

seats available at \$249 or more. The Bushnell says these are the only authorized ticket provider for the Hartford performances of "Hamilton."

While "Hamilton" is in Hartford this summer, there will also be a lottery for \$10 tickets to all performances. Details of the lottery will be announced closer to the performance dates.

Bushnell 2021-22 Broadway season subscribers are already assured of seeing the show. Another way of getting tickets in advance of the public sale was to make a certain level of donation to

The Bushnell.

"Hamilton" first played The Bushnell in December of 2018. It was due to return just two years later, in December of 2020, but the COVID pandemic shut down the tour.

In 2018, tickets sold out within hours of going on sale to the public. Weeks later, some additional tickets were put on sale.

"Hamilton" is a modern take on the life of Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, who fought in the American Revolution, was a key strategist in the founding of the

United States and whose promising political career was derailed by some reckless decisions. The musical, with book and music by Lin-Manuel Miranda, tells Hamilton's story with a racially diverse cast, a score that meshes hip-hop music and traditional show tune styles, and innovative staging by director Thomas Kail and choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler. Miranda and Kail are both graduates of Wesleyan University in Middletown.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
50 Olesen Rd
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-266-3184
Auction Date- March 22, 2022 1:00 PM
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The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/8, 3/15/2022 7158273

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Timothy M. Ay, Late of Clinton (22-0091)
The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Lauren Ay
c/o JEFFREY R FISCHER, FISCHER & FISCHER, LLC, 568 WASHINGTON AVENUE, PO BOX 568, WEST HAVEN, CT 06516
3/15/22 7166145

LEGAL NOTICE
BRISTOL, CT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Sec. 21(f) of the City Charter, a public hearing is scheduled by the Ordinance Committee of the City Council, duly authorized, on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. in the Bristol Main Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, CT on the following proposed amendments to the Bristol Code of Ordinances.
• Sec. 7-18 Pertaining to a system for receiving, reviewing and maintaining fire inspection records.
News publication of the complete text of the Chapter are dispensed with due to its length. Copies are available for public distribution at the City Clerk's Office during office hours.
ATTEST:
Therese Pac
Town and City Clerk
3/11, 3/15/2022 7166272

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Joseph Pucillo, Jr., Late of Killingworth (22-0123)
The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk
The fiduciary is:
The fiduciary is: Pamela J. Shugrue, 30 Wickham Rd., East Haddam, CT 06423
3/15/22 7166358

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
1156 Cromwell ave Rocky Hill 06067
860-227-2753
Auction Date- March 22nd 2022 1:00pm
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315 Patricia Elaine Bainer Household goods
355 Sonny Fongemie Household goods
537 Jared Zotta Household Goods
594 Megan Desorbo Household Goods
643 Lorenzo Padilla Household Goods
712 Laurel Burke Household Goods
814 Yao Zhu Household Goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
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TV REVIEW

‘Bust Down’ a profane and absurd slice-of-life

By Nina Metz
Chicago Tribune

As slang, “bust down” has all kinds of meanings. But after watching the very funny, very raunchy six-episode series “Bust Down,” I prefer to think of the show’s title as a nod to all the boundaries of good taste it happily mows down, like the Kool-Aid Man busting through a wall.

Created by four friends who are also the show’s stars, “Bust Down” is a slice-of-life both profane and absurd, about the misadventures of a group of friends who trade barbs and non sequiturs while working dead-end jobs at a casino in Gary, Indiana, or filling their off hours with one shenanigan after another.

It is a wholly original creation but is without the kind of household celebrity names that can help a show stand out amid a fire hose of reboots that already have familiar titles. Also, it’s streaming on Peacock, the also-ran of platforms. None of this should matter. And in a fair and rational world, none of it *would* matter. But these factors have a way of conspiring to keep too many good shows under the radar. I hope that doesn’t happen here. “Bust Down” joins a rarefied lineup of small but specific comedies with a similar blend of the smart and ridiculous, including “Starstruck,” “Sort Of” and “South Side” (all on HBO Max), and “We Are Lady Parts” (on Peacock).

Sam is the lone female of the group (played by former “Saturday Night Live” writer Sam Jay), and she works in the casino’s kitchen. She’s a stud lesbian



“Saturday Night Live” cast member Chris Redd stars in the six-episode series “Bust Down.” PEACOCK

among these clownish straight men, and she’s the only one in a committed relationship. You wonder if she’s only friends with these knuckleheads because of proximity, but even so, she’s very much one of the guys and the kind of cool customer who casually wonders — while talking to the hamburgers she’s grilling — if smoking weed mingled with scratch ticket dust causes hallucinations.

Working the valet stand with a swagger apparent to him, and only him, is Chris (“SNL” cast member Chris Redd). He’s upbeat, out of touch and convinced of his (nonexistent) star power. He lives in a universe dictated by his own nonsensical logic and Redd’s physicality is half the fun of this performance. Sitting in a church, disgusted that a pastor could be so lacking in presence, he closes

his eyes and prays: “Dear Jesus, heavenly Father in the manger and whatnot, is this *ya mans*?” — delivered with prayer hands that he then uses to point toward the pulpit. It’s such a small but funny way to punctuate the line.

The casino’s custodial duties are handled by Langston (Langston Kerman, whose credits include “Insecure” and “The Boys”) who would be the voice of reason if only he weren’t so consistently nerdy and whiny and annoying to everyone around him. The character is hilarious precisely because he usually *is* right, but he’s also corny and easily shocked — and therefore easy pickings. When a non-Black person at a party mocks him for being light-skinned, the camera slowly zooms in on his hurt-appalled expression to the sound of plaintive

flutes. He gets no sympathy from his darker-hued friends, who each roll their eyes (cue the flutes and more bruising close-ups on Langston; it’s a very funny running gag) except for Chris, who has an enthusiastically convoluted assessment of the situation.

Rounding out the four-some is Jak (“Big Mouth” writer Jak Knight). As a character, he’s harder to pin down. His presence is unpredictable and chaotic; it’s not even clear what he does at the casino. He’s also the wild card, weird and destructive one moment (his Bruce Willis/“Die Hard” air duct crawl at a sperm bank does not end well), and floppy and puppyish the next (a desperate attempt to get into a cookout’s make-believe VIP section).

You know it’s a true ensemble comedy when even the recurring char-

acters get to be standouts, including Sam’s no-baloney girlfriend Nina, played by “Insecure” alum DomiNque Perry, getting a fully-fleshed out character despite her “girlfriend of” status within the show, and the casino’s less-than-stellar head of HR, a man who favors leisure-style suits and a spread-eagle shirt collar played by rapper Freddie Gibbs.

Content-wise, nothing is off-limits — not homelessness, not domestic violence, not the Black church, not workplace activism — and if that sounds like a minefield, well, you wouldn’t be wrong. I think when we hear comedians gripe about political correctness, it’s because they have neither the skill nor the interest in finding the humanity — and therefore the opportunities for silliness — in the thing they’re zinging. But the creators of “Bust

Down” have the right kind of approach. They’re goofy as hell, but also intelligent and thoughtful and self-aware, which allows them to take on otherwise touchy subject matter.

And they mostly pull it off. But not always.

The first episode is about molestation in various forms, and it doesn’t fully land. I think some of that is because it is the first episode, and we’re just getting to know these characters. I went back and re-watched it after seeing the entire season, and I still don’t think it fully works, but it works a lot better once you’ve gotten to know these people. What I’m saying is, it’s not an ideal introduction to the show.

As it is, it’s not until episode three, titled “Beige Rage,” when “Bust Down” (and the dynamic among the group) clicks into place, but unlike so many other single-camera comedies, the show isn’t just amusing, it’s straight-up *funny*. And unabashedly dirty and quotable. There are jokes upon jokes, skewing everything from sexual harassment to colorism to bad motivational speakers to horny church ladies to cynical social justice efforts.

And while I usually cannot stand scatological humor, somehow I found myself laughing at a random back-and-forth regarding which celebrity would have the most edible poop: “Stop. Just stop,” Langston interjects. “The correct answer is Emma Watson. She got them little British rabbit poops. That’s basically a Raisinet.”

“Bust Down” is so wrong, it’s right.

Where to watch: Peacock

CELEBRITIES

Davidson nabs spot on space launch

From news services

Pete Davidson is heading to space. The “Saturday Night Live” star is among the six passengers on the next launch of Jeff Bezos’ space travel venture Blue Origin, the company announced Monday.

The launch is scheduled for March 23, and Davidson will be the third celebrity on a Blue Origin flight. William Shatner was on a flight in October, while former NFL great and “Good Morning America” co-host Michael Strahan flew on Blue Origin’s second passenger flight in December.

Bezos, the founder of Amazon, flew on the company’s first passenger flight last July.

Blue Origin flights give passengers a few minutes of weightlessness above the Earth’s surface before the capsule parachutes and lands in the West Texas desert. The company has not disclosed the ticket price for paying customers.

‘The Power of the Dog’ wins at BAFTAs: Sci-fi epic “Dune” won five prizes and brooding Western “The Power of the Dog” was named best picture as the British Academy Film Awards returned Sunday with a live ceremony after a pandemic-curtailed event in 2021.

New Zealand filmmaker Jane Campion was named best director for “The Power of the Dog,” becoming only the third woman to win the prize in the awards’ seven-decade history. Lead acting trophies went to Hollywood star Will Smith for “King Richard” and British performer Joanna Scanlan for “After Love.” Ariana DeBose was named best supporting actress for “West Side Story.” The supporting actor prize went to Troy Kotsur for “CODA,” the awards’ first deaf acting winner.



Pete Davidson is among the passengers on a Blue Origin launch set for March 23. ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP 2020

Parton declines Rock Hall of Fame nod: Dolly Parton has announced she is pulling out of this year’s nominations for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, saying she hasn’t “earned that right.”

The music icon who has been elected into the Country Music Hall of Fame explained her decision in a statement posted on her official social media pages Monday, noting she did not want to take votes away from the remaining nominees.

“Even though I am extremely flattered and grateful to be nominated for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, I don’t feel that I have earned that right. I really do not want votes to be split because of me, so I must respectfully bow out,” she wrote.

Parton was named on the Rock Hall shortlist last month.

Model Bieber fine after blood clot: Model Hailey Bieber says she is fine after a health scare, suffering a blood clot to her brain this past week.

Bieber, wife of pop star Justin Bieber, posted on Instagram Saturday that she was having breakfast Thursday when she began feeling stroke-like

symptoms. Taken to the hospital, she said doctors had found a small blood clot on her brain. But she said her body passed it on its own, and she recovered completely within a few hours.

Singer Braxton dies: Singer Traci Braxton, who was featured with her family in the reality television series “Braxton Family Values,” died at age 50 on Saturday. According to reports, she had been fighting esophageal cancer.

“Braxton Family Values” aired for seven seasons starting in 2011 on WeTV. It focused on the lives of sisters Toni, Traci, Tamar, Trina and Towanda and their extended families.

Traci was an actor and singer, with “Last Call” and “Broken Things” her best known songs.

March 15 birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 87. Bassist Phil Lesh is 82. Singer Mike Love is 81. Musician Sly Stone is 79. Actor Frances Conroy is 69. Singer Dee Snider is 67. Model Fabio is 63. Singer Bret Michaels is 59. Singer Mark McGrath is 54. Bassist Mark Hoppus is 50. Actor Eva Longoria is 47. Musician will.i.am is 47.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Half of couple quits cannabis, but other won’t

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column for two weeks to work on other creative projects. I hope you enjoy these “Best of” columns from 10 years ago. Today’s topic: “up in smoke.”

Dear Amy: My boyfriend and I are 22. We have been dating for almost four years.

We both used marijuana on a daily basis (before we met).

Our pot use was a way to bond and get to know each other, while enjoying life.

After a year of dating, I decided to quit smoking and focus on my education.

After going to college and receiving a degree, I do not wish to continue this habit.

My boyfriend continues to smoke on a daily basis. It doesn’t bother me that I cannot do this with him, but I don’t want him to do this for the rest of his life.

We have been talking about marriage and starting a family. He says he will quit when we are ready to have children. I have been thinking about our relationship. I have never known him when he was sober.

I asked him to get sober for a short period of time so we can be together without being under the influence before we take the next steps in our life.

When I talked to him about this, he became angry and agitated, but I think he is going to agree.

Now I am hoping that if he quits, he won’t start smoking again (although I doubt it). Is it wrong of me to ask him to do this?

— *High on Life*

Dear High: When you quit

smoking, did you quit for your boyfriend? No, you quit for yourself.

It is obvious that you like the changes that sobriety has brought to your life. Now you are hoping your guy will quit his habit for a short time, and you are worried about his choices beyond the sobriety he hasn’t even achieved, yet.

The questions for you to ponder are: What will you do if your boyfriend doesn’t make any changes in his life? Can you be with him as is — pot and all?

And do you want him — as is — to be your spouse and the father of your children?

Dear Amy: My 24-year-old daughter graduated from college two years ago and moved back in with me last year.

I realize my daughter is an adult, but we have had some issues about her smoking pot, which I do not allow in my home.

My daughter works part time and has her own money. Recently, she has been going upstairs and spending a great deal of time with a 60-year-old female in-law, who lives in our building.

One evening she came back from a visit, and she was so high that her eyes were barely open and her speech was impaired.

I confronted her, and she confirmed that they smoke pot together.

I think a 60-year-old woman should not be smoking pot with my 24-year-old daughter. This woman is a bad influence. Should I confront her?

She knows I have been concerned about my

daughter’s use and her recent behavior changes, including her laziness.

I don’t care what this other person does, but I do care that she is encouraging my daughter to use drugs that have kept her from passing a urine test for a permanent job.

— *Concerned Parent*

Dear Concerned: You seem determined to confront the wrong person about your daughter’s drug use. Your daughter will find someone to smoke pot with as long as she is using, whether it is a family member, friend or co-worker. Her behavior is the immediate problem in your household.

You seem to assume that a 60-year-old should “know better,” but age does not confer wisdom — or moderation.

I shared your letter with Charles Rubin, author of “Don’t Let Your Kids Kill You: A Guide for Parents of Drug and Alcohol Addicted Children” (2007, New Century Publishers). Rubin says, “You must take a firmer line and tell her to get a full-time job or work full-time hours within a specific time frame. Tell her, ‘If you’re smoking, you obviously won’t be able to get that job, and I won’t be able to offer you housing any longer.’ Give her a deadline and calmly stick to it. In addition to preserving your own self and health, you have the opportunity to influence her by your example.”

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TV Q&A

What did Jones say at show’s end?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Q: What was the Welsh saying expressed by Tom Jones at the end of his weekly show in the ’60s?

A: A huge star in the 1960s, Tom Jones is still part of the pop culture world in his 80s, with his newest recording released in 2021. In addition, a current Toyota commercial with Joneses — Tommy Lee, Leslie and Rashida — used Tom’s “It’s Not Unusual” as its music. From 1969 to 1971, he hosted “This Is Tom Jones,” a musical variety show; a native Welshman, he ended the show by saying, “Gwyn eich byd a dymunaf i chwi lawenydd bob amser,” which one of my TV reference books translates to, “May you always be well and be happy.”

Q: Do you know if “The Gong Show” is coming back?

A: The deeply weird “talent” program “The Gong Show” originally aired from 1976 to 1980 with Chuck Barris (known mainly as the man behind “The Dating Game” and other shows) as the best-remembered host. Oddly talented people performed for a panel of judges (among them Jaye P. Morgan, Jamie Farr and Rip Taylor) who could either give them a score or “gong” them to stop their performance. There was also a revival of the series in late ’80s without Barris. But you may be thinking of the most recent version hosted by Tommy Maitland, a character played by comic actor Mike Myers, which arrived in 2017. It ran for about 20 episodes across two seasons, but there has not been a new telecast since 2018. So I would not look for more.

Q: Is the next season of “The Amazing Race” in production and when can we expect it to air?

A: I’d expect the racers to



Tom Jones ended his variety show that ran from 1969 to 1971 with a Welsh phrase that translates to, “May you always be well and be happy.” **ANDREW PARSONS/GETTY-AFP 2018**

get to work soon. CBS on March 9 announced an order for a 34th round of the adventure competition as part of its lineup in the 2022-23 season.

Q: I am wondering about the actors in a movie I saw in 1954 or so. It was an English movie, and I believe it was called “The Girl Who Couldn’t Quite.”

A: That is the correct title of a 1950 movie based on a play of the same name. It involves a tramp helping a young woman who is unable to smile. Elizabeth Henson played the girl, Ruth, with Bill Owen as the tramp, Tim. The cast also included Betty Stockfeld and Iris Hoey.

Q: I am wondering if actor Lynn Hamilton is still living. She played a neighbor on “The Waltons.”

A: Hamilton is still with us at age 91. Her first screen role was in John Cassavetes’ film “Shadows” in 1959. She played Fred Sanford’s girlfriend Donna Harris on “Sanford and Son,” and was in “Roots: The Next Generation,” “Rituals” and other TV productions. She was also a regular theater performer. She was married to the poet

and playwright Frank S. Jenkins for more than 40 years, until his death in 2014.

Q: Whatever happened to the mob movie “The Irishman,” with Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci and others? It hit the streets for about a week and then disappeared.

A: The 2019 movie directed by Martin Scorsese was not really made for theatrical showings aside from a few to make it eligible for Oscar consideration. (It managed to get 10 nominations but no wins.) The streaming service Netflix agreed to put up the reported \$100 million budget Scorsese said he needed and so obtained the main rights to show the film. You can still find all three-and-a-half hours of the movie on Netflix. It has also been released on Blu-ray and DVD in a lavish Criterion Collection package.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): What brings you joy and what pleases others aren’t likely to be the same thing right now. A rough opposition is forcing you to come to terms with herd mentality. A group project might seem like more trouble than it’s worth.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You may love to lounge around and take your time doing things at the moment. You’re probably not raring to get up and go at the crack of dawn, but that easygoing vibration won’t cut it. A VIP might call on you to perform at a moment’s notice, so be ready to put your best foot forward.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): There’s nothing fun about facing your own limitations, particularly today. You could face major issues, snagging you from out of the clouds and bringing you firmly back down to earth. If it feels like you can’t connect the dots, don’t worry! This transit is only temporary.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your sense of self-worth could get run over by someone else at this time, whether they mean to or not. Get real about how much power you let anyone else have over you. If you’re hoping for blind support from someone in particular, then you’ll probably be disappointed.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Cracks in a partnership could become too obvious to ignore today. Get in touch with your own needs. Perhaps an important person will confront you with a harsh truth or set up a roadblock when all you wanted was to head to the finish line. Consider going solo for now.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You could feel rather out of it today. Unfortunately, that doesn’t mean the world is going to stop turning and let you take it easy. Your subconscious is going to form a tough opposition work. No matter how much you would rather do things on your own time, you will have to follow someone else’s schedule.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): People might be calling you to come out and play, but that doesn’t mean you’ll want to go along with their plans. There is a bit of dissonance between what you want to do and what everyone else is in the mood for. If you can’t reach an easy compromise, you may want to hold off.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A family member could throw your day off track before it even has a chance to begin! Try to deal with this as calmly as possible. Do your best to leave any drama behind so that it doesn’t follow you throughout the day, casting a dark cloud over everything you do.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your normal support systems might not be as available today. Opposition could leave you feeling like all your ideas are met with nothing but naysayers. Even if people think your ideas are worthwhile, implementing them could be all but impossible, so hold off on major changes.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You’re known for being a responsible sign, but that doesn’t mean you never want to throw caution to the wind. That being said, you won’t be able to throw it very far today without the planets tossing it back in your face! Spending is a four-letter word today, so keep your wallet shut tight.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Getting on the same page as anyone might feel like a herculean task today. The last thing you’re going to want to do is form a duo! While you may have better luck if you stick to your own program, remember that no one is an island. You will need to find some way of working together.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Don’t be surprised if you feel somewhat off today. Establish a plan and stick to it. That said, when she opposes Saturn in your subconscious realm, you may be less interested in playing by the rules and more into doing things on your own time. A last-minute issue could appear.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 15, 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated.

In 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich,

who declined the crown, marking the end of imperial rule in Russia.

In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris to found the American Legion.

In 1972, “The Godfather,” Francis Ford Coppola’s epic gangster movie starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, premiered.

In 1977, the situation-comedy “Three’s Company” premiered.

In 2019, a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In 2020, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the nation’s largest public school system would close in hopes of curbing the spread of the coronavirus.



Joseph Sikora as Tommy Egan in “Power Book IV: Force.” **SANDY MORRIS/STARZ**

TV REVIEW

The swagger (and the mess) of Egan on ‘Power Book IV: Force’

By Nina Metz
Chicago Tribune

There’s a very witty performance at the center of “Power Book IV: Force,” the fourth and latest incarnation of the “Power” franchise on Starz starring Joseph Sikora as Tommy Egan, a bad boy extraordinaire pushing his way into Chicago’s illegal drug trade. Here’s a guy with attitude and swagger and a working-class suspicion of anything (or anyone) too slick. He’s rough around the edges, and proudly so. And he’s *funny*.

Tommy is forever in search of mess. If there’s drama, he’ll find it. Or cause it: “I got a short fuse and a long memory.” He has zero chill, but like every gangster from Scarface on down, he can size up a situation and is loyal in his own way, but at the end of the day he wants *all* the smoke. This controlled recklessness has served him well. Is he superhuman? No. He’s smart. And lucky.

Ghost, the main character in the original “Power,” was the closest thing he had to a brother, and now that’s gone, for good or for ill. Tommy, a recent trans-

plant to Chicago from New York, is the kind of guy you *want* to follow into battle, except he’s choosing all the wrong battles. Unlike so many white people, he is at ease in Black spaces, among Black people. He’s blazingly confident, but to mangle an idiom: Confident’s just another word for nothing left to lose.

Since his arrival in town — Ghost-less for the first time — Tommy has cagily aligned himself with a South Side operation known as the Chicago Brothers Incorporated, or the CBI, led by Diamond Sampson. A coolheaded tall drink of water fresh out of prison, Diamond is played with understated charisma by Isaac Keys and the two men have more in common than first meets the eye.

The show is high-octane entertainment and it gets a lot right — about how segregated the city is, and also how insular. Chicago can be a place of cold streets, both literal and metaphorical.

There’s also plenty here that feels like creative license. The big dogs in the drug game are an Irish family on the North Side called the Flynns. Their

lakefront mansion suggests they live in one of the north suburbs rather than Chicago proper. Of course, Tommy needs a nemesis, otherwise, there’d be no show, but all the Flynn stuff is hammy and lands awkwardly, like it wandered in from another show entirely.

No, it’s Tommy — and by extension, Sikora — who is shouldering everything that’s interesting about “Force.” Considering he’s in most of the scenes, that works out just fine. Sikora is having the time of his life as a man who likes to mix it up and dive headlong into danger. Tommy has such an instinct for underhanded dealings (and violence), and he has yet to make a fatal mistake, which is why this is such a fantasy — and why it’s so much fun to watch. It’s not particularly deep. Doesn’t need to be. But it’s such a thrillingly grounded but out-there performance, and Sikora deserves heaps of attention for it. Because really, this is the Tommy Egan show.

He’s the one you want to spend time with. If only to see what he’ll do next.

Where to watch: Starz



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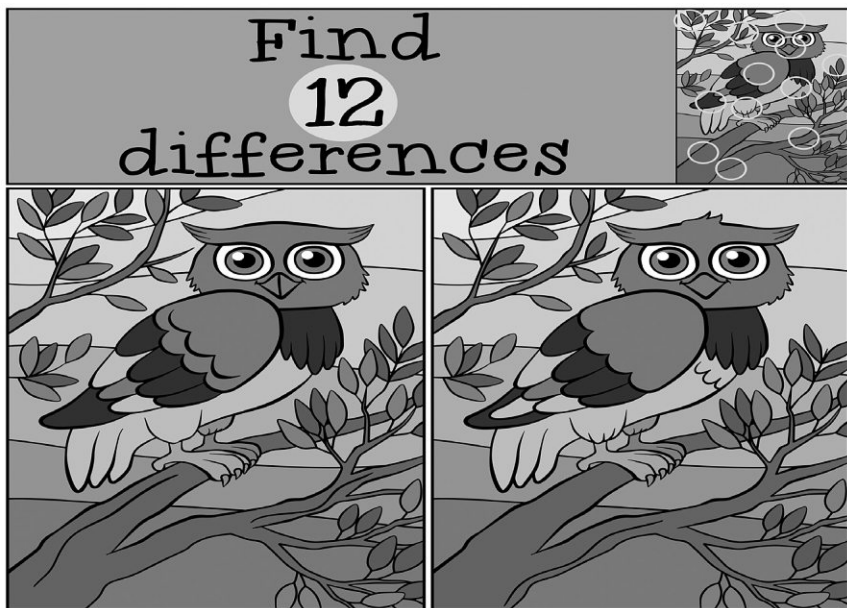
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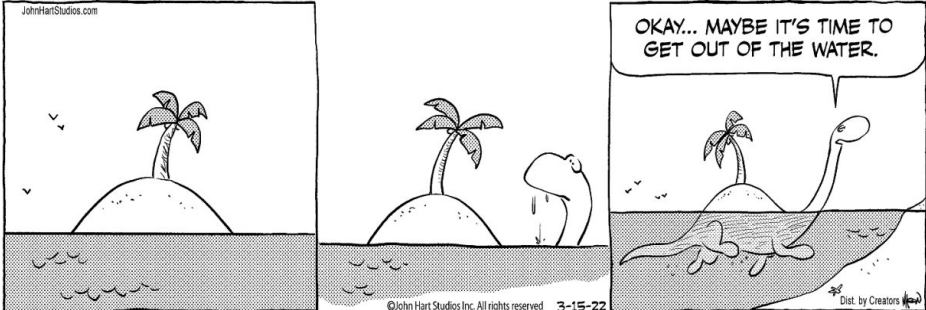




For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



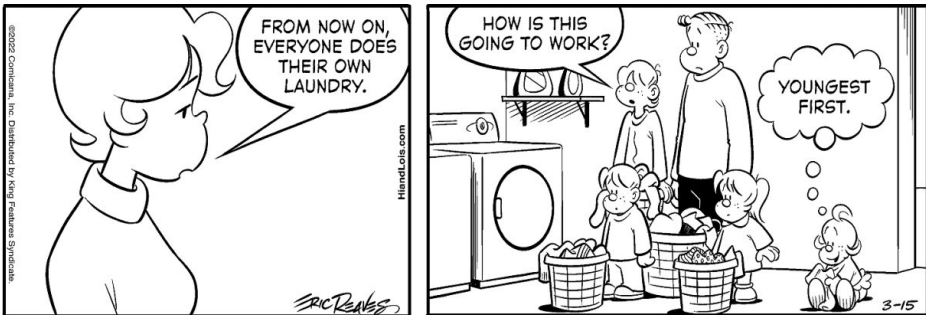
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



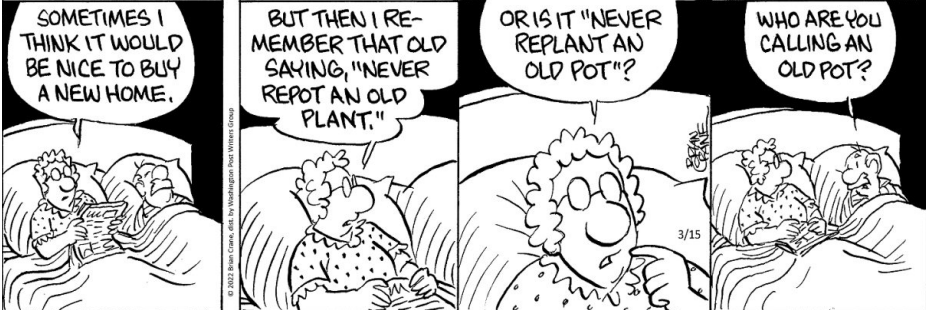
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



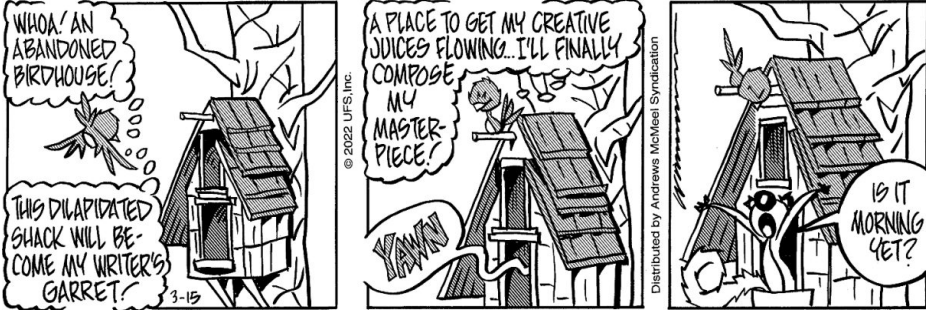
Pickles By Brian Crane



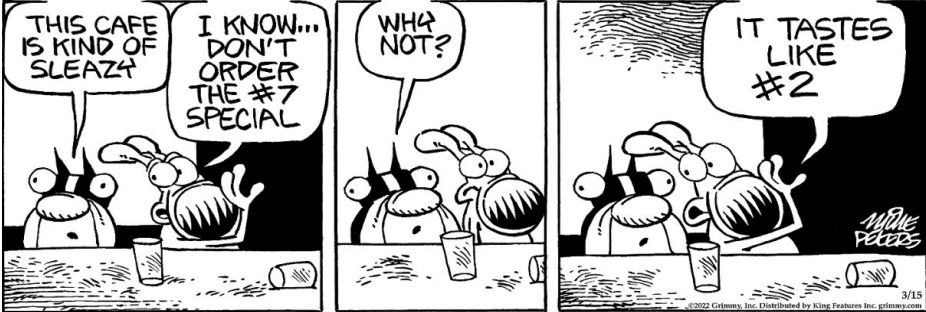
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Rolex rival
6 Wow
11 Listing at indeed.com
14 Halloween costume with pointy ears
15 Mid-range voice
16 One of WD-40's many
17 Wartime delinquent
19 Slippery road cause
20 Multipart sofa
21 Mufasa's "The Lion King" brother
22 '60s-'70s Chicago Bears running back who is the youngest inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame
25 German pastry
30 Provide money for
31 Playground retort
32 __sci
33 Web access co.
36 Flute and oboe
40 Drunkard
41 Sorority T's
42 Sleep disorder
43 Sam or Michelle of Georgia politics
44 Online marketing technique
46 Flaky baked dough
50 Human rights lawyer
51 Greek "Father of History"
57 Birdie plus one
58 "Piece of cake!"

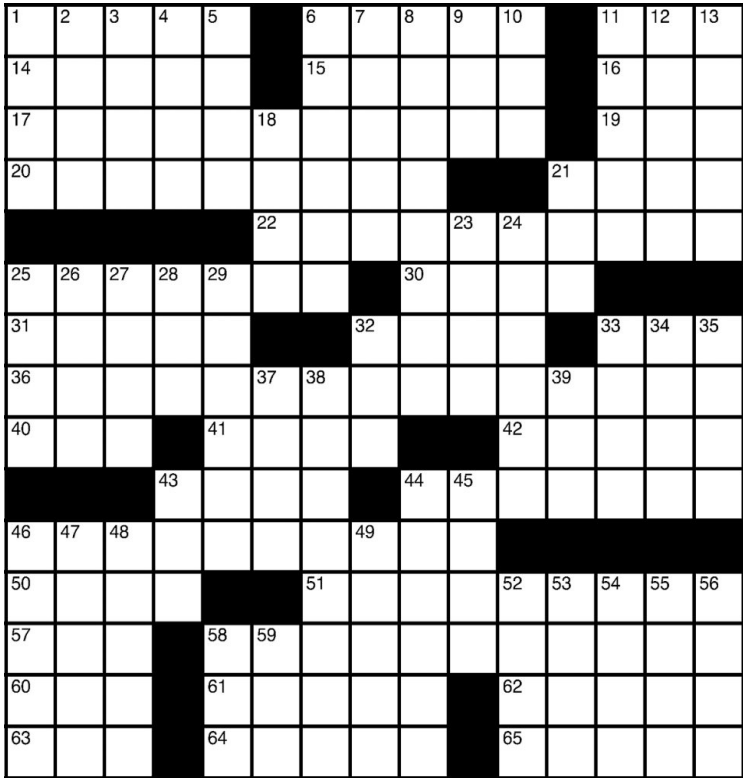
- ... and apt description of the starts of 17-, 22-, 36- and 46-Across?
60 "Mad Men" network
61 Hazardous gas
62 Shenanigan
63 Falsehood
64 Surgical tube
65 Everycow

- 11 Electricity
12 Letter before Papa
13 Coronas and Buds
18 Venetian elder of yore
21 Australian airport code
23 "Star Trek" helmsman
24 __ husbandry
25 Logging tools
26 Fairy tale bears, e.g.
27 "Seasons of Love" musical
28 Amer. money
29 Wrap a gift, slangily
32 Halves of qts.
33 Holiday and Days
34 Editor's "Let it be"
35 Free TV ads
37 Mom's mom
38 Awning, for one

- 39 Eco-conscious govt. group
43 Super Bowl org.
44 Roaming, like a knight
45 Brief invite equivalent of "Drinks are not on me!"
46 Like decrees from Francis
47 Fish sauce taste
48 Screwball comedy
49 Grand __ National Park
52 Just plain plain
53 Napa prefix
54 Asian holidays
55 Israeli weapons
56 Cabinet dept. head
58 QB targets
59 Top __: Monopoly piece

Down

- 1 3:1, e.g.
2 No more than
3 Emergency copter op
4 Birthday buy
5 Mid-range voices
6 Without a key
7 Olympic goal
8 Artfully seek, as a promotion
9 Actress Kravitz
10 Make a mistake



By John Michael Currie Tribune Content Agency 3/15/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ A Q J 4
♦ J 5
♣ K 9 3

WEST
♠ K 9 3
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 9 7 6 2
♣ 7 4

EAST
♠ J 8 5 4
♥ 10 9 6 5
♦ A K 8 4
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ 7 2
♦ 10 3
♣ A Q J 10 8 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
Opening lead — six of diamonds.

A matter of priorities

A simple finesse is essentially a 50-50 proposition, and as such its success or failure is primarily a matter of luck. Therefore, when confronted by a finessing situation, a declarer should first look for an alternative line of play that might improve on or eliminate the luck factor. But when there's no choice, declarer should bear in mind that some finesses are more advantageous than others.

Consider this deal where many declarers might instinctively go wrong.

West leads a diamond against five clubs, and East cashes his K-A before shifting to a spade.

It is tempting to finesse the queen of spades, but it would be wrong to do so. The fact is that a spade finesse, whether successful or not, has nothing to do with the chance of making five clubs. Taking a spade finesse would jeopardize the contract without increasing the possibility of making it.

The outcome depends, pure and simple, on whether West has the king of hearts. Therefore, declarer should put up the ace of spades at trick three, draw two rounds of trump and take a heart finesse. If it succeeds, he returns to his hand with a trump and takes another heart finesse, then discards the queen of spades on the ace of hearts to make the contract.

It is true that if your only concern were to make two spade tricks instead of one, you would finesse the queen of spades. But here the goal is to make five clubs, and that overrides the question of making two spade tricks.

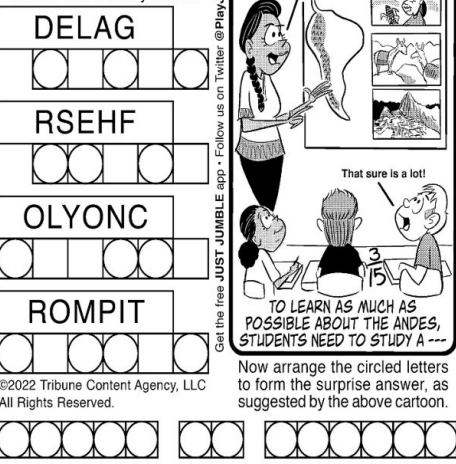
It is also true that if East has both major-suit kings, you can go down only one by finessing the spade return at trick three, but that is immaterial under the circumstances. Making the contract is the principal consideration.

Tomorrow: Mind game.

JUMBLE

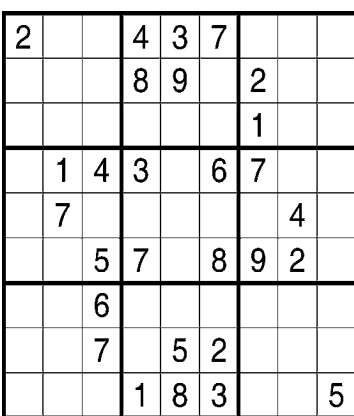
BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



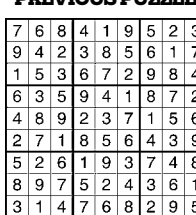
Yesterday's Jumbles: DAISY PRICE SQUAWK MAGNET
Answer: The young skunk sprayed the man. The skunk's proud mom looked on as it — RAISED A STINK

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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March 14-27

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

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UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dawn of reinvention

For Paige Bueckers, task is being 'best version' of herself as UConn preps for tourney

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

STORRS — After the UConn women finished off the Big East Tournament on March 7, everyone had three days to rest and regroup.

That time was especially important for Paige Bueckers, who is trying to work her way back to the form that made her the national player of the year as a fresh-

Up next



UConn vs. Mercer
1 p.m. Sat., ABC

man. Since her return from knee surgery on Feb. 25, the progress has been steady, but requiring patience.

"Every day I'm just trying to get one

percent better," Bueckers said Sunday after the Huskies learned their NCAA Tournament route. "It's obviously been a struggle both physically and mentally just trying to get back. But I think the biggest thing for me is just accepting what I am and what I am going to be for the rest of the season and just trying to be the best version of myself."

Turn to Bueckers, Page 4



Coming Thursday

Check out our e-edition at **courant.com** for an 8-page, digital-only section previewing the NCAA men's and women's tournaments. It will include breakdowns of all the regions in the men's tournament, an overview of the women's tournament, both brackets, and more.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL



Bacon Academy's Emma Mancuso goes for the block against East Hampton's Liana Salamone in a Class M girls semifinal Monday at Plainville High School. Bacon pulled out a 30-26 victory. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mirror image

Huskies are ready to play doppelganger in New Mexico State to open March Madness

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Isaiah Whaley pulled his phone out of his pocket, navigated to the YouTube app and typed in "New Mexico State men's basketball team highlights" in the search bar.

Just seconds before, CBS had revealed that the UConn men's basketball team was a No. 5 seed in the West Region of the NCAA Tournament and would play the No. 12 Aggies in the first round on Thursday at 6:50 p.m. in Buffalo.

"As soon as they announced the team, I looked up YouTube clips of them," Whaley said. "I needed to see exactly who we were going against. I saw the film a little bit. I see why they are here. They're a really good team. We have our work cut out for us."

Whaley saw a team that is a mirror image of UConn in many ways.

"They're really physical," he said. "They have great size. They are not super fast but are really, really physical. We are a big and physical team as well, so it's going to be a good matchup for us."

UConn coach Dan Hurley is excited about the opportunity.

"To be able to play in Buffalo against a team that plays a lot like us in New Mexico State, they are an athletic, aggressive and attacking team. It's going to be a great game," he said.

The Aggies are built around size and physicality. No player in the starting lineup is under 6 feet 4.

Building a roster with good size was a point of emphasis for coach Chris Jans.

"We wanted to get bigger for a number of reasons," he told reporters on Monday, "not just for if we were awarded the opportunity to play in the NCAA Tournament. Just overall, I felt like we've been smaller out front for too long. ... We made a concerted effort to try to get bigger across the board. I definitely feel better now that you know we've got that added size. We'll be able to match up a little better with a team like UConn than maybe in past years."

Like the Huskies, New Mexico State hangs its hat on defense. The team is No. 20 in Division I in opponent effective field goal percentage with 45.5%, according

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

PLAINVILLE — By halftime of the Class M semifinal game, the Bacon Academy girls basketball team had only scored 11 points.

"It couldn't get any worse, so things had to change," Bacon Academy coach John Shea said.

Things did. In the third quarter, senior Valerie Luizzi hit a couple of baskets, the second a 3-pointer, and Bacon gained confidence and crept closer. Marissa Nudd's spin move in the lane gave the Bobcats

their first lead in the fourth, East Hampton did not score for the last seven minutes, and Bacon advanced to its first state championship game since 2017 with a 30-26 victory Monday at Plainville High.

"You can't play like that and expect to win," Shea said of his team's first-half effort. "We had to turn it around because we couldn't play any worse, I told them. We didn't do anything different. Just made some shots. Our two scorers started getting a little confidence, saw a ball go in,

and then they did it some more."

The Bobcats, who were the Class M runners-up in 2017, will face Holy Cross in the Class M final either Saturday or Sunday at Mohegan Sun Arena. Holy Cross beat Valley Regional 57-50 on Monday night.

Luizzi scored 14 points to lead the second-seeded Bobcats (23-3). Nudd added seven points.

"It was definitely one of the hardest teams we had to go against — their defense was really strong," Luizzi said. "We just knew coming out we had to play calm. Some-

times we did get a little too fast, but coming out of halftime, we wanted to make it our own pace, just play our own game."

Freshman Liana Salamone had 11 of her 15 points in the first half as No. 3 East Hampton (23-3) led 16-11 at the break.

"They have a strong freshman and sophomore [Jackie Russell, who had six points], but we knew we had seniority. We had more experience," Luizzi said. "We just decided to make the game ours."

Turn to Bacon, Page 2

YANKEES

Sanchez dealt to Twins; Donaldson arrives, clears air with Cole

By Mark Didtler
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Josh Donaldson called out new teammate Gerrit Cole last season for possible use of unauthorized grip aides, but both now say they are united on bringing the New York Yankees their first World Series title since 2009.

The Yankees acquired Donald-

Inside

Mets' Alonso uninjured when his car flips in Florida. Page 2

son, shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa and backup catcher Ben Rortvedt from the Minnesota Twins on Sunday night for catcher Gary Sánchez and third baseman Gio

Urshela,

Donaldson suggested last June that Cole, the Yankees' ace, had been trying to hide the use of the grip aides.

The 2015 AL MVP and Cole met with New York manager Aaron Boone before the Yankees' first spring training workout Monday.

"In the end, I think it's going to be a non-issue," Boone said.

"I think it already is buried and a non-issue, not to say it wasn't a real issue last year for us. But I feel really good about those two guys, and I think both those guys understand the clubhouse culture we try and create."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman called Cole before the

Turn to Yankees, Page 2

Up next



UConn vs. New Mexico St.
6:50 p.m. Thu., TNT

Did you know?

Some of the worst do-it-yourself injuries involve high pressure tools like power washers and sprayers. Each can cause severe injuries when pressurized fluids hit skin.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: NCAA First Round vs. New Mexico State, Thursday, 6:50 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Saturday/Sunday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 24/25, time TBD
UConn WBB: NCAA First Round vs. Mercer, Saturday, 1 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday/Monday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD
Celtics: at Warriors, Wednesday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Nuggets, Sunday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Trail Blazers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Magic, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Mavericks, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Trail Blazers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Hockey East Semifinal vs. Northeastern, Friday, 4 p.m.; Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Chicago, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.; at Wild, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Jets, Friday, 8 p.m.
Rangers: Ducks, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Islanders, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Syracuse, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Laval, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Belleville, Saturday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL

7 p.m.: Michigan at Vanderbilt. (Live) SEC
BASKETBALL
7 p.m.: Nets at Magic. (Live) YES
7 p.m.: NIT First Round: Missouri State at Oklahoma. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: NIT First Round: Belmont at Vanderbilt. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: NIT First Round: Princeton at VCU. (Live) ESPN
8 p.m.: Suns at Pelicans. (Live) NBA
9 p.m.: NIT First Round: Oregon at Utah State. (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: NIT First Round: Alcorn State at Texas A&M. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: NIT First Round: Cleveland State at Xavier. (Live) ESPN
11 p.m.: NIT First Round: St. Bonaventure at Colorado. (Live) ESPN2
11 p.m.: NIT First Round: Santa Clara at Washington State. (Live) ESPN
BOWLING
8 p.m.: WSOB Scorpion Championship Finals. (Live) FS1
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Ducks at Rangers. (Live) MSG
8:30 p.m.: Bruins at Blackhawks. (Live) NESN
SOCCER
1:30 p.m.: Italian Serie B Como vs Ternana. (Live) FSP
3:30 p.m.: Italian Serie B Alessandria vs AC Monza 1912. (Live) FSP
3:30 p.m.: UEFA Champions League Manchester United vs. Atlético de Madrid. (Live) UNI
SOFTBALL
6 p.m.: UNC-Wilmington at North Carolina. (Live) ACC
TENNIS
2 p.m.: BNP Paribas Open: ATP 3rd Round, WTA Round of 16. (Live) TENNIS



Northwest Catholic's Matthew Curtis drives to the basket as Conard's Jalen Hamblin defends in a CCC semifinal game earlier this month. The two CCC teams will face each other again in the Division II semifinals Tuesday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL WEEK 13

Granby and Cromwell battle for a spot in Division IV final

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

The last time there was a state boys basketball tournament in 2019, Granby advanced to the Division IV final where the Bears ended up as the runner-up to New Canaan.

Now they're one game away from the final again but will face top-seeded Cromwell (23-1) on Tuesday in the Division IV semifinals at New Britain.

"Cromwell's going to be tough," Granby coach Wally Hansen said. "They're the No. 1 seed for a reason. It'll be a challenging test."

Granby (20-5) has 11 seniors, including its leading scorer Justin Phillips (18 points per game) and leading rebounder Ralph Rossi, the Bears' 6-foot-8 center.

Last week, Granby beat Ellington in a quarterfinal game, 58-49, behind 20 points from Phillips and 13 from another senior, Josh Brown. The Bears won a close game in the second round, 61-58 over Cheney Tech.

"It's been a good fun ride so far," Hansen said. "Hopefully, we're peaking at the right time."

Players of the week

Tyler Betsey, Windsor: Betsey had 25 points in a 102-67 victory over Manchester in a Division I second-round game on Thursday.

Mike Bontempo, Ellington: Bontempo scored 29 points in a 94-83 win over Windham Tech in a second-round Division IV game Thursday and 22 in a 58-49 quarterfinal loss to Granby on Friday.

Jaydon Buckle, Windsor Locks: Buckle scored 26 points in a 51-46 win over East Hampton in a Division V first-round game last Tuesday and 24 points in a 49-48 win over Hale-Ray in the second round on Thursday.

Troy Butler, Manchester: Butler had 22 points in a 63-57 victory over Glastonbury in a Division I first-round game last Tuesday.

Matt Curtis, Northwest Catholic: Curtis scored 28 points in a 72-45 win over Greenwich in a second-round Division II game on Thursday.

Sam Hutchinson, Valley Regional: Hutchinson scored 23 points in a 56-43 win over Nonnewaug in a Division IV first-round game last Monday.

Alex Johnson, Windham Tech: Johnson had 22 points and 18 rebounds in Windham Tech's season-ending loss to Ellington in the

second round of the Division IV tournament on Thursday.

Ryan Lewis, Suffield: Lewis scored 21 points in a 74-53 win over Norwich Tech in a Division V first-round game last Tuesday.

Xavier McCall, Cheney Tech: McCall had 20 points, 15 rebounds and two blocks in Cheney Tech's 61-50 win over Old Lyme in a Division IV first-round game last Monday.

Justin Phillips, Granby: Phillips scored 27 points in a 61-58 victory over Cheney Tech in the second round of the Division IV tournament on Thursday.

Storylines

■ Undeclared Bristol Central is getting closer to its ultimate goal, the Division II final at Mohegan Sun this weekend. The Rams (26-0) beat Waterford 70-48 in the division quarterfinals behind 45 points from Donovan Clingan on Friday. Bristol Central led 31-28 at halftime then outscored Waterford 23-8 in the third quarter to take a commanding lead. Bristol Central will face Wilton on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven in the semifinals. The Rams have not been to the championship game since 1990, when they beat St. Joseph 66-65 for the Class L title.

■ Bloomfield last advanced to the state championship game in 2017, where the Warhawks lost to Brookfield 63-60 in the Class M final. The sixth-seeded Warhawks have another shot at making it this year. Their Division IV semifinal game vs. 10th-seeded Morgan is Tuesday at 6 p.m. at New Britain High.

Games to watch

Northwest Catholic vs. Conard, Tuesday: The two CCC teams already faced off twice this season, once on Feb. 1, a 52-43 win for Northwest Catholic, and again in the CCC tournament semifinals, which was another win for the Lions. They will play at Enfield High at 7 p.m. in the Division II semifinals.

Cromwell vs. Granby, Tuesday: Cromwell has only one loss this season to Morgan, which is in the other Division IV semifinal. Granby — which has 11 seniors — is up for the challenge in a Division II semifinal at New Britain High at 7:45 p.m.

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METS

Alonso uninjured when his car flips

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — New York Mets first baseman Pete Alonso said he was unhurt when his car flipped in an accident in Tampa on Sunday. The All-Star slugger said his wife, Haley, was in the car behind his and notified authorities.

"To me this is just really special to be here," Alonso said Monday. "This is a really special spring training because yesterday was a really close experience to death. My car flipped over probably about three times and a guy ran a red light, T-boned me, and to me I'm just really thankful to be alive. I'm really thankful that I'm healthy. I'm very thankful to be here.

"It's just anything can happen at any given moment, and I'm just super, super blessed to

be here. Hit, took some groundballs, threw, feel normal, feel fine. I'm going to be ready to go for full activity tomorrow. It's just taking today to do some personal work, like some one-on-one drills. But today I just feel really blessed to be here, not just alive but health as well."

Alonso was on his way to the Mets' camp when the accident occurred.

"One thing I was coming here to work, coming to spring training, and the next thing I know I'm kicking my windshield and trying to get out of a flipped-over car. So just really blessed to be here. Thankful nothing's wrong. Also, thank you, Ford, for having great engineering," he said.

Tampa police said the accident occurred around 6:30 p.m. and that the crash was under investigation.

RED SOX

Martinez says he wants to finish career in Boston

By Jason Mastrodonato
Boston Herald

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Entering his final year under contract with the Red Sox, J.D. Martinez said Monday he'd like to spend the rest of his career in Boston.

"I would love it," he said. "I've expressed where I stand with the team, and I would love to finish my career here. That isn't up to me, really."

Martinez, 34, is in the final year of a five-year, \$110 million deal he signed with former Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski.

Since joining the Sox, Martinez has hit .297 with 114 homers and a .917 OPS, which ranks fifth among all players with at least 2,000 plate appearances in that span. Only Juan Soto, Mookie Betts, Bryce Harper and Freddie Freeman have done better.

Martinez could've opted out of his contract numerous times, but chose to stay in Boston.

"I think I made the right decision, and I'm excited to be here," he said. "I think this team has a chance to win again, and that's what I want to do. I want to win." He said he'd be open

to extension talks during spring training.

"I'm fine either way," he said. "My mindset is I'm going to be a free agent ... I mean, would we welcome (an extension)? Yeah, I've always welcomed it. My door is open. My phone has always been open. But I think once the season starts, it's one of those things where I'm going to want to be locked in."

Adding the universal designated hitter will create better opportunity for Martinez in the final years of his career.

"I think it's good for baseball all the way around," he said. "Obviously I'm biased to it, but I've been saying it. ... I think now it's going to kind of level the playing field for pitchers, hitters, everyone. Now you'll be able to judge a hitter, judge a pitcher strictly off their numbers and not the league they're playing in."

Martinez noticed free agent DH Nelson Cruz was just guaranteed \$15 million by the Nationals at 42 years old.

"I tell him every time I see him, 'Nelson, you're my hero,'" Martinez said. "It's tough. It's tough on your body. It's tough on your time."

Yankees

from Page 1

trade was announced, saying he owed him the call after last year's talk. Cole called the conversion with Donaldson "productive."

"If you're committed to winning a championship, this kind of stuff doesn't matter," Cole said. "I don't think there was anything that needed to really be squared away. Just a little bit of listening from both sides, and getting to know a new teammate."

Donaldson said it was a good session.

"We were just having a conversation because obviously there was a big stink that was made out of it last year, right?" Donaldson said. "I think both sides wanted to be able to meet and address the issue that was at hand as far as just hearing one another, and ultimately leading us back to our goals. Our goal is to win. Both of us are in the same clubhouse now, and that's what we're going to do.

"At the end of the day, we're here to play baseball. That's the only reason why we're in that clubhouse."

Sánchez, a two-time All-Star, had been a defensive liability and slumped at the plate in four straight seasons for the Yankees.

Kiner-Falefa, who turns 27 on March 23, and Donaldson will anchor the left side of the infield. Kyle Higashioka and Rortvedt could be the catching combo.

"We feel by doing this trade that we've upgraded defensively and offen-

sively at third, defensively at shortstop, and improved the defense on the catching side as well," Cashman said.

New York was looking to add a shortstop after shifting Gleyber Torres to second base on Sept. 13 for the remainder of the season.

Boone said as of right now Luke Voit is the starting first baseman, while DJ LeMahieu will play first, second and third.

No cash was involved in this trade. The Yankees become responsible for Donaldson's \$21 million salary in each of the next two seasons plus a \$16 million mutual option for 2024 with a \$6 million buyout if declined by the team. He agreed to a \$92 million, four-year contract with the Twins, the richest free-agent deal in franchise history.

Judgment day: Cashman said he has not had any talks with outfielder Aaron Judge about a contract but plans to explore the possibility with him. Judge can become a free agent after the season. He is eligible for arbitration this year and free agency next fall.

Trainer's room: The Yankees placed reliever Zack Britton on the 60-day injured list. The lefty, who had left elbow UCL reconstruction surgery Sept. 8, has been throwing on flat ground for a month and hopes to pitch before the regular season ends, ... Righthander Domingo Germán (shoulder) has just started a throwing program.

Bacon

from Page 1

East Hampton still led 23-20 at the end of the third quarter, but Bacon chipped away at the lead. Luizzi hit a 3-pointer to cut it to 25-24, then Nudd's basket gave the Bobcats the lead with 6:15 left. Nudd hit two free throws with 5:43 left and Russell hit one for East Hampton with 2:34 left to cut the lead to 28-26, but Luizzi hit two more with 4.6 seconds left for the final score.

East Hampton coach Shaun Russell was frustrated after the game.

"We got some better angles early. We got to the rim, but later, we didn't play through the contact and what seemed like a whistle early wasn't a whistle late, so you've got to adjust to the game while it's being played," he said. "It's unfortunate. The kids played their hearts out like they have all year long.

"The bottom line is you're not going to win a state semifinal scoring 26 points."

Class L

Newington 35, E.O. Smith 34: Karissa Zocco hit a free throw with 3.2 seconds left to propel top-seeded Newington into the Class L championship game with a 35-34 victory over E.O. Smith in the late game at Plainville High.

"That was pretty nerve-racking, like if you make it, you go to Mohegan; if you miss, your season's over," Zocco said. "Congrats to E.O. Smith, they're a great team. They played really hard. That was a well-fought game. Both teams just played really good defense."

Newington will make its first appearance in a state championship game since 1993 when it was a runner-up in Class LL to Southington. The top-seeded Nor'easters will play No. 3 Notre Dame-Fairfield, a 39-28 winner over Simsbury Monday night in the other Class L semifinal.

"We know our work's not done and we have a strong opponent ahead of us," Newington coach Marc Tancredi

said. "We want to prove a lot of people wrong and prove what Newington basketball's been about for the last few years."

Lilly Ferguson, who had 16 points, hit a 3-pointer to tie the score at 34 with 2:49 left. E.O. Smith had chances to score but missed. The Panthers took a charge but then turned the ball over and were called for a foul with 3.2 seconds left.

Zocco made one of two free throws. Lilli Clark led E.O. Smith with 17 points.

It was the third time the two CCC teams had faced each other. Newington won 54-41 on Dec. 17, then again in the CCC quarterfinals 44-21.

"It was a great defensive battle," E.O. Smith coach Mary Roickle said. "Kudos to our kids who stepped up after they got demolished three weeks ago. Those kids in that locker room have nothing to be ashamed of."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB	
Philadelphia	41	25	.621	—	
Boston	41	28	.594	1 ½	
Toronto	37	30	.552	4 ½	
Brooklyn	35	33	.515	7	
New York	28	40	.412	14	

SOUTHEAST					
	W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	45	24	.652	—	
Atlanta	33	34	.493	11	
Charlotte	33	35	.485	11 ½	
Washington	29	37	.439	14 ½	
Orlando	18	51	.261	27	

CENTRAL					
	W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	42	26	.618	—	
Chicago	41	26	.612	½	
Cleveland	39	29	.574	3	
Indiana	23	46	.333	19 ½	
Detroit	18	50	.265	24	

WESTERN CONFERENCE					
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	47	22	.681	—	
Dallas	42	26	.618	4 ½	
New Orleans	28	40	.412	18 ½	
San Antonio	26	42	.382	20 ½	
Houston	17	51	.250	29 ½	

NORTHWEST					
	W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	42	25	.627	—	
Denver	40	28	.588	2 ½	
Minnesota	39	30	.565	4	
Portland	26	40	.394	15 ½	
Oklahoma City	20	47	.299	22	

PACIFIC					
	W	L	PCT	GB	
x-Phoenix	54	14	.794	—	
Golden State	46	22	.676	8	
L.A. Clippers	36	35	.507	19 ½	
L.A. Lakers	29	38	.433	24 ½	
Sacramento	24	45	.348	30 ½	

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 120, L.A. Clippers 111 (OT)
Denver at Philadelphia, late
Portland at Atlanta, late
Charlotte at Oklahoma City, late
Minnesota at San Antonio, late
Chicago at Sacramento, late
Milwaukee at Utah, late
Washington at Golden State, late
Toronto at L.A. Lakers, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Brooklyn at Orlando, 7p.m.
Memphis at Indiana, 7p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Brooklyn 110, New York 107
L.A. Clippers 106, Detroit 102
Dallas 95, Boston 92
Philadelphia 116, Orlando 114, OT
New Orleans 130, Houston 105
Atlanta 131, Indiana 128
Phoenix 125, Oklahoma City 118
Memphis 140, L.A. Lakers 111

TENNIS

BNP PARIBAS OPEN
At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#26 Gael Monfils d.
#1 Daniil Medvedev, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.
#4 Rafael Nadal d.
Daniel Evans, 7-5, 6-3.
#5 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs.
Jenson Brooksby, late
#8 Casper Ruud vs. Nick Kyrgios, late
#10 Jannik Sinner vs.
Benjamin Bonzi, late
#12 Cameron Norrie vs. #18 Nikoloz Basilashvili, late
#17Reilly Opelka d.
#13 Denis Shapovalov, 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4.
#19 Carlos Alcaraz d.
#15 Roberto Bautista Agut, 6-2, 6-0.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#30 Marketa Vondrousova d.
#4 Anett Kontaveit, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(5).
#5 Paula Badosa vs.
#32 Sara Sorribes Tormo, late
#6 Maria Sakkari d. #27 Petra Kvitova, 6-3, 6-0.
#13 Elena Rybakina d.
#17 Victoria Azarenka, 6-3, 6-4.
#18 Leylah Fernandez vs.
Shelby Rogers, late
Daria Saville d. #20 Elise Mertens, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
#31Veronika Kudermetova d.
Marie Bouzkova, 6-4, 0-2, retired.
#31 Viktorija Golubic d.
Jasmine Paolini, 7-5, 1-6, 7-6(3).

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER							
EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA	
Columbus	2	0	1	7	9	4	
Philadelphia	2	0	1	7	5	2	
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	0	6	7	3	
D.C. United	2	1	0	6	4	2	
Atlanta	2	1	0	6	5	5	
Chicago	1	0	2	5	2	0	
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	4	2	
Orlando City	1	1	1	4	3	2	
New England	1	1	1	4	5	5	
Cincinnati	1	2	0	3	2	7	
Toronto FC	0	2	1	1	3	7	
Inter Miami CF	0	2	1	1	1	7	
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	6	
CF Montreal	0	3	0	0	2	8	

WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA	
Los Angeles FC	2	0	1	7	6	1	
Real Salt Lake	2	0	1	7	4	2	
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	10	4	
Colorado	2	1	0	6	5	3	
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	4	3	
Portland	1	0	2	5	4	3	
Minnesota United	1	0	2	5	3	2	
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	3	2	
Houston	1	1	1	4	2	2	
Nashville	1	1	1	4	2	3	
Seattle	1	2	0	3	3	4	
Kansas City	1	2	0	3	2	4	
San Jose	0	2	1	1	4	8	
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	1	6	

Three points for win, one point for tie.
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Miami at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30p.m.
CF Montreal at Atlanta, 4p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago, 6p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
Columbus at N.Y. Red Bulls, 2p.m.
Seattle at Austin FC, 4:30p.m.
Vancouver at Los Angeles FC, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 2, Charlotte FC 1
Minnesota 1, N.Y. Red Bulls 0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	28	20	6	2	73	19	66
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	26	16	3	7	43	29	51
Man United	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	29	14	6	9	48	36	48
Wolverhampton	29	14	4	11	29	23	46
Tottenham	27	14	3	10	42	35	45
Aston Villa	29	11	3	14	41	39	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Leicester	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Brighton	28	7	12	9	26	34	33
Newcastle	28	7	10	11	32	48	31
Brentford	29	8	6	15	32	45	30
Leeds	29	6	8	15	31	65	26
Everton	26	6	4	16	28	47	22
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

MONDAY'S RESULT
Crystal Palace 0, Man City 0

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Brighton vs. Tottenham, 3:30p.m.
Arsenal vs. Liverpool, 4:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S MATCH
Everton vs. Newcastle, 3:45p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
Wolverhampton vs. Leeds, 4p.m.
Burnley vs. Southampton, ppd
Man City vs. Brighton, ppd

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	59	40	13	6	86	245	173		
Tampa Bay	59	38	15	6	82	200	171		
Toronto	59	37	17	5	79	219	181		
Boston	59	36	18	5	77	180	160		
Detroit	59	24	28	7	55	170	221		
Buffalo	60	20	32	8	48	162	212		
Ottawa	58	21	32	5	47	154	189		
Montreal	59	16	35	8	40	147	224		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	59	41	13	5	87	198	139		
Pittsburgh	60	36	15	9	81	197	160		
N.Y. Rangers	59	37	17	5	79	180	154		
Washington	60	32	18	10	74	197	169		
Columbus	60	30	27	3	63	199	222		
N.Y. Islanders	56	24	24	8	56	152	157		
New Jersey	59	22	32	5	49	179	208		
Philadelphia	59	18	30	11	47	148	206		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	60	42	13	5	89	233	170		
St. Louis	59	34	17	8	76	211	165		
Minnesota	58	34	20	4	72	218	193		
Nashville	59	34	21	4	72	190	166		
Dallas	57	32	22	3	67	170	169		
Winnipeg	60	27	23	10	64	182	187		
Chicago	60	22	30	8	52	161	208		
Arizona	58	18	36	4	40	148	210		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	59	36	16	7	79	204	143		
Los Angeles	61	33	20	8	74	178	173		
Edmonton	59	32	23	4	68	193	187		
Vegas	61	32	25	4	68	192	183		
Vancouver	60	29	24	7	65	173	174		
Anaheim	62	27	25	10	64	180	197		
San Jose	58	26	25	7	59	154	182		
Seattle	61	18	37	6	42	159	220		

MONDAY'S RESULT
Arizona at Ottawa, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Arizona at Montreal, 7p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at Nashville, 8p.m.
Vegas at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Detroit at Edmonton, 9p.m.
New Jersey at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.
Florida at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 4, Carolina 2
Buffalo 5, Toronto 2
Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 3 (OT)
Columbus 6, Vegas 4
Montreal 4, Philadelphia 3 (OT)
N.Y. Islanders 4, Anaheim 3
Nashville 6, Minnesota 2
Colorado 3, Calgary 0
Tampa Bay 2, Vancouver 1
Los Angeles 3, Florida 2 (SO)

GOLF

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
4th of 4 rounds, TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., 7,256 yards; Par: 72
FedEx Cup pts in parentheses
275 (-13) \$3,600,000
Cameron Smith (600)
276 (-12) \$2,180,000
Anirban Lahiri (330)
277 (-11) \$1,380,000
Paul Casey (210)
278 (-10) \$980,000
Kevin Kisner (150)
279 (-9) \$820,000
Keegan Bradley (120)
280 (-8) \$675,000
Harold Varner III (101)
Russell Knox (101)
Doug Ghim (101)
281 (-7) \$525,000
Sepp Straka (80)
Adam Hadwin (80)
Viktor Hovland (80)
Dustin Johnson (80)
282 (-6) \$327,222
Russell Hendrix (57)
Taylor Penrich (57)
Keith Mitchell (57)
Erik van Rooyen (57)
Daniel Berger (57)
Max Homa (57)
Tyrrell Hatton (57)
Brendan Steele (57)
Shane Lowry (57)
283 (-5) \$201,000
Joaquin Niemann (43)
Patton Kizzire (43)
Tommy Fleetwood (43)
Kevin Streelman (43)
284 (-4) \$143,000
Corey Connors (33)
Doc Redman (33)
Sergio Garcia (33)
Alex Noren (33)
Patrick Reed (33)
Will Zalatoris (33)
Sam Burns (33)
285 (-3) \$100,111
Abraham Ancer (22)
Ian Poulter (22)
Justin Thomas (22)
Seamus Power (22)
Joel Dahmen (22)
Pat Perez (22)
Tom Hoge (22)
Rory McIlroy (22)
Sebastian Munoz (22)
286 (-2) \$73,000
Kramer Hickok (14)
Scott Stallings (14)
Francesco Molinari (14)
Louis Oosthuizen (14)
69-72-69-76

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	TUESDAY	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Tex Southern	3½	Texas A&M-CC		
at Oklahoma	6	Missouri State		
at VCU	6	Princeton		
at Vanderbilt	4	Belmont		
at North Texas	9	Texas State		
at Xavier	12	Cleveland State		
at Utah State	5	Oregon		
at Texas A&M	20	Alcorn State		
Indiana	4	at Wyoming		
at Colorado 4		St. Bonaventure		
at Wash. St.	3	Santa Clara		
Wright State	3½	Towson		
Notre Dame	1	Rutgers		
Michigan	2½	Colorado State		
Providence	2	South Dakota St.		
Memphis	2½	Boise State		
Baylor	21	Norfolk State		
Tennessee	17	Longwood		
Iowa	10½	Richmond		
Gonzaga	23½	Georgia State		
North Carolina	3	Marquette		
UConn	7	New Mexico St.		
Kentucky	18	St. Peter's		
San Diego St.	2½	Creighton		
Arkansas	5	Vermont		
Murray State	1½	San Francisco		
UCLA	14	Akron		
Ohio State	Pk	Loyola (Chi)		
Auburn	15½	Jacksonville St.		
Texas Tech	15	Montana State		
Purdue	15½	Yale		
Villanova	14½	Delaware		
USC	1½	Miami		
Texas	1	Virginia Tech		
Illinois	7½	Chattanooga		
Duke	18	CS Fullerton		
LSU	4	Iowa State		
Houston	8½	UAB		
Michigan St.	1	Davidson		
Wisconsin	7½	Colgate		
TCU	Pk	Seton Hall		

NBA FAVORITE LINE O/U
at Indiana off (off)
Brooklyn 10½ (off)
at Miami off (off)
at New Orleans off (off)
Phoenix
TUESDAY
FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG
at Montreal -164 Arizona +13

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday: vs. New Mexico
St., in Buffalo, 6:50 p.m., TNT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Mercer, at
Gampel, 1 p.m., ABC

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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COVERAGE PRESENTED BY

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UConn's Paige Bueckers, right, celebrates with teammates Azzi Fudd, left, and Nika Mühl during the Big East Tournament. JESSICA HILL/AP

Bueckers

from Page 1

Bueckers may not make it back to 100 percent this season, but during the week, coach Geno Auriemma and Andrea Hudy, the program's director of sports performance, saw some positive signs in testing her strength, range of motion and the like.

"We practiced Friday and Saturday and did a little workout with her [Sunday]," Auriemma said. "She looks really good. Hudy keeps track of all the numbers, and she has been able to track that since October, and Paige is at the same level she was at before the surgery. That's a great sign."

Bueckers averaged 20.0 points, 5.7 assists, 4.9 rebounds, 2.3 steals and 36.2 minutes as a freshman. The Huskies came to depend heavily on her in the 2021 NCAA Tournament, and she was playing from late January on with an ankle injury that required surgery to repair an osteochondral defect, bone and cartilage damage after the season.

This season she was off to an even better start when she fell awkwardly during the final minute of a victory over Notre Dame on Dec. 5, sustaining a tibial plateau fracture and meniscus tear that required surgery Dec. 13.

After 10 weeks of rehab, she returned Feb. 25 and has since appeared in five games. She has

shown flashes of her old self, eight points in 13 minutes in her first game, five assists in her second game, 16 points in 18 minutes in her third game.

"Sometimes I am not as comfortable, or when I was first coming back, not as comfortable making the same moves," Bueckers said, "making the same reads, making the cuts or movements I did before my knee surgery. Just being able to be more comfortable with what I am doing. My strength is there. My healing is there. Just being comfortable enough to use it is the biggest thing for me."

She played only eight minutes in the conference final, after which Auriemma said there were mental obstacles Bueckers had to overcome, that she may have to accept being something less than 100 percent of the player she normally is.

"That is a work in progress," Auriemma said. "When you come off an injury as severe as the one Paige had, that's the last thing to come back. But each and every day I see more and more and more of her being her old self, physically and mentally."

If there is a player born for March Madness, not to mention name-image-likeness opportunities, it would be Bueckers. Among the highlights of the last tournament, played without fans in a bubble in San Antonio, was a marquee showdown against Iowa and its top player, Caitlin Clark. That game, on ABC, drew

roughly 1.6 million viewers and showed women's basketball could be successful on national network TV.

The Huskies will have another such opportunity Saturday at 1 p.m., with their first-round game against Mercer at Gampel Pavilion picked up by ABC.

"It's awesome that we could have the first two games at home," Bueckers said. "Last year we spent the whole tournament in one location, in a bubble, so After last year in a bubble, I think we're all excited about this new experience."

Another adjustment, which has come easier, is that Bueckers returned to a team that had grown in her absence. She has no limitations as far as playing time, Auriemma said, but there won't likely be a need for Bueckers to play extended minutes, except to build her endurance in the early rounds.

So far, she has been in the starting lineup only once, but Auriemma has not indicated whether Bueckers will continue to come off the bench; he's playing that by eye and ear.

"Whatever the team needs from me — off the bench, 30 minutes, 20 minutes, 40 minutes — I'm excited with whatever role," Bueckers said.

If UConn (25-5), a No. 2 seed, defeats No. 15 Mercer (23-6), the Southern Conference champion, the next game would be against Florida or Central Florida on Monday. Then the Sweet 16 game would be played in Bridgeport,

where Kentucky, Princeton, Indiana or Charlotte are possible opponents. NC State, the No. 1 seed in the region, is most likely to await the Huskies if they reach the Elite Eight.

"We're just focused on our first game, our opponent," Bueckers said. "Whatever comes after that, we'll be ready for. ... Our team has a whole lot of confidence. Everybody knows her role, and everybody has their roles. Everybody has just gained a lot of confidence from different people having to step up and play a lot of minutes. It's great for every single one of us, knowing that we have really good roster and everybody who comes off the bench and plays just as good as the starters. Everybody is confident to know we have each other's back"

If UConn can reach the Final Four for the 14th consecutive year, it will be played in Bueckers' backyard, Minneapolis. She was born in nearby Edina, Minn., and played high school ball in Minnetonka.

"Being out, being injured, not being able to play the game you love, you've got to find ways to stay positive and be happy," Bueckers said. "I love this team, everything about them, and being able to have fun with them, celebrate with them makes me super happy. ... I'm ready and excited to be anything this team needs me to be in order to win."

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UConn Women's Basketball

Juhász expected to return next season

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The No. 2 seed UConn women will begin NCAA Tournament play on national TV on Saturday.

The Huskies' first-round game against No. 15 seed Mercer will be played at Gampel Pavilion at 1 p.m. and televised by ABC, locally on WTNH-TV, Channel 8.

Last year's UConn-Iowa tournament game, the matchup of Paige Bueckers and Caitlin Clark, was the first women's game on national network TV since 1995. It drew roughly 1.6 million viewers for ABC. The network plans to televise several tournament games this month.

Meanwhile, UConn grad transfer Dorka Juhász told coach Geno Auriemma she plans to return to play out her final year of eligibility in 2022-23. Auriemma said Juhasz can always change her mind, but she was leaning that way for a while despite being honored on Senior Day.

Juhász, a 6-foot-5 forward from Pecs, Hungary, transferred from Ohio State and became an important contributor, especially when the Huskies were going through their series of injuries. She has been "invaluable" playing off the bench during UConn's late surge, Auriemma said, and her role figures to expand next season.

Overall, Juhász played 28 games for the Huskies, starting 15, and has averaged 21 minutes, 7.8 points and 5.9 rebounds.

Latest move

The Huskies (25-5) moved up one spot to No. 5 in the latest Associated Press women's college basketball poll. The top four are South Carolina, Stanford, NC State and Louisville. UConn lost to South Carolina and Louisville earlier in the season. Princeton, the Ivy League champ coached by UConn alum Carla Berube, is ranked No. 25.

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Huskies

from Page 1

to KenPom. UConn is five spots behind them at No. 25 with 45.7%.

The Aggies' Johnny McCants averages 1.8 blocks and plays a similar role to Whaley on defense. The forward is a good help defender and deters attempts at the rim.

Both teams rebound well, too. The Huskies are top 10 in nearly every rebounding category. New Mexico State averages 35.8 rebounds per game, tied for No. 27.

"I think rebounding balls will be at a premium on Thursday," Jans said. "You know they're a little bit bigger and a little bit stronger across the board than maybe we are. Including the bench that comes in the game, it's going to be a challenge for us."

On offense, New Mexico State

excels at scoring inside the arc. The Aggies are No. 36 in 2-point percentage. The main difference between them and UConn is how they score. The Aggies' offense is built around a primary scorer in Teddy Allen, who averages 19.5 points.

The Huskies have three scorers who average double-digit points (R.J. Cole, Adama Sanogo and Tyrese Martin).

"They're not a one-dimensional team," Jans said. "We play some teams that are really good in the perimeter but struggle around the basket. That won't be the case with this particular team. They have a lot of guys that can score the basketball in a variety of ways."

Martin feels playing in the Big East gives the Huskies an edge against physical teams.

"The Big East is a physical league," he said. "The Big East is a gauntlet. There are no nights off. It

will definitely prepare us for something like March."

Jans feels UConn isn't too worried about his team.

"The quality of their competition really prepares them to play anybody in the NCAA Tournament," he said. "It's not like they are going to be shaking in their boots when they see New Mexico State."

Ultimately, the Huskies relish playing a team with a similar style.

"We are going to play a playstyle that we embrace and shine in," Whaley said. "This team, we are a really experienced team. We played in the tournament last year, so at least have a little bit of experience. Just to play a team that is similar to our playstyle is really fun."

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at [shre98](https://twitter.com/shre98) on Twitter.



Mississippi State's Nick Weatherspoon goes to the basket against New Mexico State's Johnny McCants, who is a defensive force inside. ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Safety Tip of the Day

Thinking about an early spring bicycling adventure? Use great care. Sandy road shoulders can easily cause you to lose traction and balance.

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NCAA TOURNAMENT BRACKETS



WEATHER

TUESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mixed clouds and sunshine. Southwest wind at 5 to 10 mph. Chance for a few showers at night.

HIGH 62°

LOW 37°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly sunny and mild.

HIGH 62°

LOW 39°

THURSDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, a chance for a shower or two.

HIGH 58°

LOW 44°

FRIDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Partly sunny and very mild.

HIGH 71°

LOW 47°

SATURDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, becoming breezy, showers are likely.

HIGH 54°

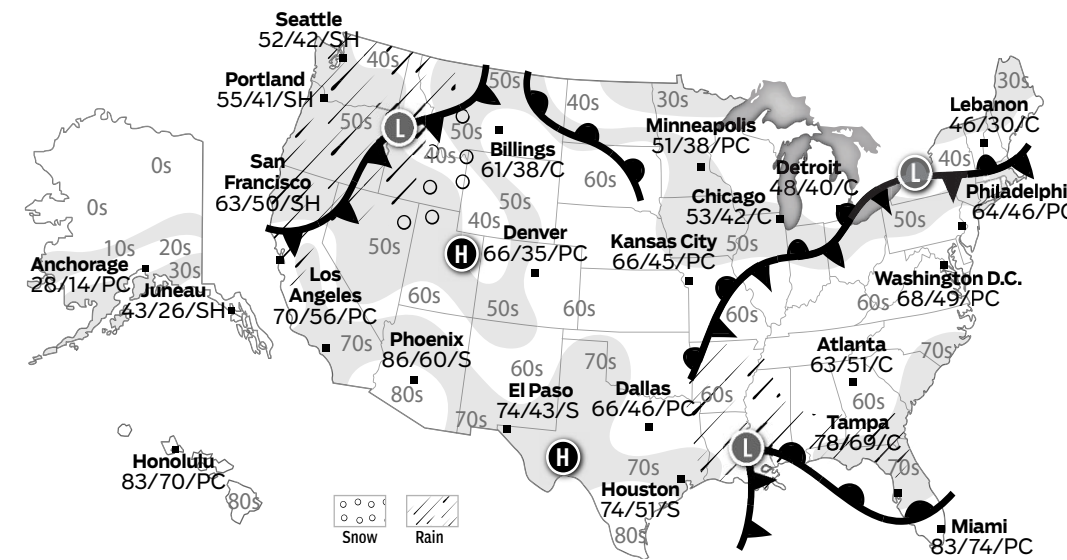
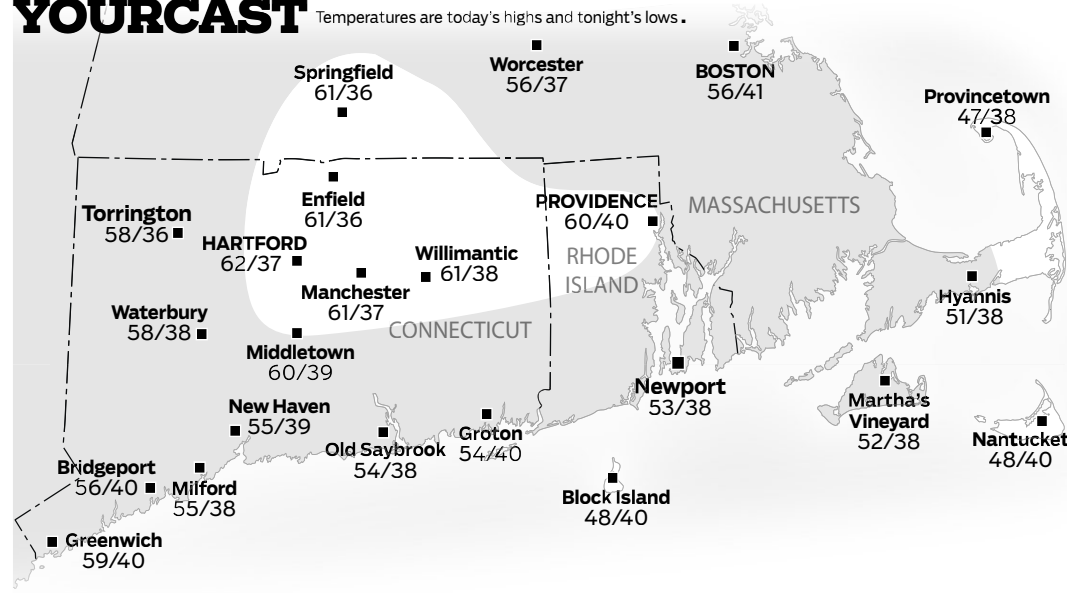
LOW 39°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

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YOURCAST



OUTLOOK

Temperatures will continue to turn milder on Tuesday as highs reach through the 50s and lower 60s with a mixture of clouds and sun. A weak front could trigger a few showers this evening and early tonight before partial clearing develops. High pressure will bring sunshine and mild temperatures on Wednesday with highs in the 50s and lower 60s. Friday still appears to be the mildest day of the week with portions of the state reaching 70 degrees. Unfortunately, it will be cooler and unsettled on Saturday. Sunday through Thursday appear to be milder than normal.

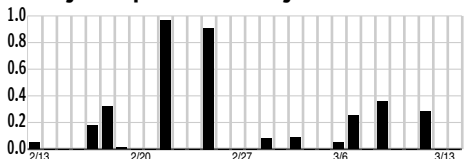
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	1.11	1.73
Total this year	7.42	8.14
Snowfall In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.3
Total this year	31.5	46.8

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	8:31 a.m.	2:16 a.m.	41°
	8:44 p.m.	2:51 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	9:42 a.m.	3:09 a.m.	42°
	9:55 p.m.	3:44 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	a.m.	6:55 a.m.	
	12:25 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
Madison	9:50 a.m.	3:30 a.m.	41°
	10:13 p.m.	4:02 p.m.	
New Haven	10:10 a.m.	3:54 a.m.	41°
	10:33 p.m.	4:26 p.m.	
Stamford	10:14 a.m.	4:08 a.m.	40°
	10:37 p.m.	4:40 p.m.	

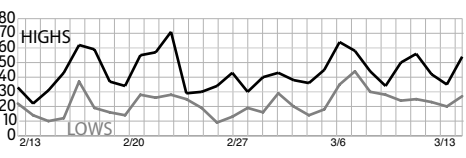
River Stage at Hartford: 7.27 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	Pcloudy	Pcloudy	Pcloudy
Wind	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Monday	54 at 2:39 p.m.	27 at 12:09 a.m.
Normal for date	46	28
Record for date	78 in 1946	7 in 1948
A year ago	49	24
Range this year	71	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 14	4395	4757	4486

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.38 at 10 a.m.	30.26 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	22° at 6 p.m.	12° at 12 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND	Bangor 44 25 PC	Baltimore 66 43 PC	Nashville 68 49 C	San Juan 85 74 PC	Stockholm 46 26 S
Burlington 41 30 C	Bismarck 59 33 PC	New Orleans 75 54 T	Tucson 86 52 S	Sydney 77 66 SH	
Caribou 31 14 PC	Boise 51 31 SH	New York 60 49 PC		Tel Aviv 54 36 PC	
Concord 49 31 C	Buffalo 44 36 SH	Oklahoma City 66 43 PC		Tokyo 68 45 PC	
Montpelier 39 28 C	Charleston 74 59 PC	Omaha 59 41 S		Toronto 41 32 SN	
Mt. Wash. 21 13 C	Cincinnati 62 44 C	Orlando 81 66 C		Vancouver 52 43 R	
Portland 49 33 C	Cleveland 51 43 C	Pittsburgh 59 43 PC		Warsaw 48 36 S	
Woods Hole 55 38 PC	Indianapolis 58 46 C	Raleigh 70 48 PC			
	Jacksonville 74 59 PC	St. Louis 67 48 C			
	Las Vegas 78 59 PC	Salt Lake City 56 39 PC			
	Miami Beach 80 75 PC	San Antonio 80 45 S			
	Milwaukee 47 39 PC	San Diego 70 58 PC			
NATION					
Albany 48 35 C					
Albuquerque 67 41 S					
Atlantic City 63 43 PC					

KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division I—Quarterfinals
Upper Bracket
EAST CATHOLIC 73, WILBUR CROSS 63
FAIRFIELD PREP 57, NFA 55

Lower Bracket
WINDSOR 62, RIDGEBURY 58
NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN 77, NOTRE DAME-FAIRFIELD 47

Division III—Quarterfinals
Upper Bracket
KOLBE CATHEDRAL 41, BERLIN 35
KENNEDY 76, LEDYARD 63

Lower Bracket
HAND 64, NEW LONDON 38
ST. BERNARD 85, BASSICK 84 (OT)

Division V—Quarterfinals
Upper Bracket
WINDHAM 51, PORTLAND 49
WINDSOR LOCKS 54, SUFFIELD 39

Lower Bracket
CAPITAL PREP 59, WEAVER 57
CAPITAL PREP (18-7): Keyshawn Mitchell 2-0-4, Quincy Ferguson 5-3-14, Mehki Tyson-Slaughter 3-5-11, Elijah Graig 6-6-19, Nehemiah Johnson 2-0-5, Josiah Evans 2-2-6, Totals 20-16-59.
WEAVER (16-7): Stephen Wilson Jr. 3-0-8, Christian Walters 2-0-4, Damar Artis 2-2-6, Mahari Taylor 1-0-2, Jamir Hicks 3-1-8, Madden Cupe 3-3-10, Chris Wilson 7-2-17, John Paul Jones 1-0-2. Totals 22-8-57.

CP	9	19	11	20	59
W	18	7	9	23	57

Note: C. Wilson had 11rebounds, 4blocks and Walters had 5assists, 2steals.
SMSA 74, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 70 (OT)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Class L—Semifinals
NOTRE DAME-FAIRFIELD 39, SIMSBURY 28
E.O. SMITH VS. NEWINGTON, LATE

Class M—Semifinals
BACON ACADEMY 30, EAST HAMPTON 26
VALLEY REGIONAL VS. HOLY CROSS, LATE

Class S—Semifinals at New Britain HS
CONYNGHAM 39, IMMACULATE 36
THOMASTON 48, BOLTON 42

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division III—Semifinals at Northford Ice Pavilion
NEWINGTON 5, JBWA 1
CONARD VS. BBD, LATE

BOYS SWIMMING

Diving Championships
CLASS LL AT MIDDLETOWN HS
Top 10finishers: 1. Whitaker Grover, Greenwich, 536.05; 2. Ben Bradley, Norwalk/McMahon, 494.75; 3. John Holland, Fairfield co-op, 470.85; 4. Jayden Satir, Greenwich, 449.40; 5. Finn Moynahan, Fairfield co-op, 447.85; 6. Jay Shah, Glastonbury, 435.70; 7. Alex Rosania, Southington, 429.65; 8. Christian Butler, North Haven co-op, 403.95; 9. Jacob Winston, Greenwich, 372.05; 10. Jaxson McQuaid, Norwalk/McMahon, 366.90.

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division II—Semifinals, 7p.m.
No. 4Wilton (21-4) vs. No. 1Bristol Central (26-0) at Floyd Little AC, New Haven
No. 3Conard (22-3) vs. No. 2Northwest Catholic (24-2) at Enfield HS
Division IV—Semifinals at New Britain HS
No. 10Morgan (20-5) vs. No. 6Bloomfield (19-5), 6p.m.
No. 4Granby (20-5) vs. No. 1Cromwell (24-1), 7:45p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division II—Semifinals at West Haven HS
No. 3Wethersfield (16-6-2) vs. No. 2Lyman Hall (19-5), 5p.m.
No. 4Sheehan (18-5) vs. No. 1North Haven (22-2), 8p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Meets at Cornerstone Aquatic, West Hartford
Class L, 1:30p.m.
Class S, 6p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division I—Semifinals, sites/times TBD
No. 8East Catholic (18-6) vs. No. 4Fairfield Prep (22-3)
No. 6Windsor (20-4) vs. No. 2Notre Dame-West Haven (24-1)
Division III—Semifinals, sites/times TBD

No. 4Kennedy (21-4) vs. No. 1Kolbe Cathedral (21-3)
No. 3Hand (21-4) vs. No. 2St. Bernard (20-4)
Division V—Semifinals, sites/times TBD
No. 2Windsor Locks (12-11) vs. No. 8Windsor (19-7)
No. 6Capital Prep (18-7) vs. No. 2SMSA (21-4)

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division I—Semifinals, 6:30p.m.
No. 4New Canaan (15-6-3) vs. No. 1Notre Dame-West Haven (18-4) at Terry Connors Rink, Stamford
No. 6Darion (14-8-1) vs. No. 2Xavier (13-8-1) at West Haven HS

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Meets at Cornerstone Aquatic, West Hartford
Class LL, 1:30p.m.
Class M, 6p.m.

SUNDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL

WESLEYAN 14, HAMLINE 9
REDLANDS 11, WESLEYAN 6

SOFTBALL

INDIANA STATE 6, QUINNIPIAC 3
MONDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL

TRINITY 3-6, MONTCLAIR STATE 1-8
EDGEWOOD 7, WESLEYAN 6
EASTERN 20, WISCONSIN-STOUT 3

SOFTBALL

WESLEYAN 8, WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE 0 (5)

SUNY-CORTLAND 6, WESLEYAN 2
EASTERN 7, SUNY-FREDONIA 4
EASTERN 4, ST. SCHOLASTICA 1
QUINNIPIAC 3, BELLARMIN 2
INDIANA STATE 9, QUINNIPIAC 0
ST. JOSEPH VS. FRANKLIN PIERCE, LATE

MEN'S LACROSSE

FAIRFIELD 16, BINGHAMTON 11

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

EASTERN 20, SUNY CANTON 7

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Eastern vs. Skidmore (Fort Myers, Fla.), 11a.m.
Fairfield vs. Bradcliff (Auburndale, Fla.), 1p.m.
Quinnipiac at Hartford, 3p.m.
Marist at Yale, 3p.m.
Mount St. Vincent at Trinity, 5p.m.
Eastern vs. Webster (Port Charlotte, Fla.), 6p.m.
UConn at USC, 9p.m.

SOFTBALL

Eastern vs. Franklin & Marshall (Clermont, Fla.), 9:15a.m.
St. Joseph vs. Keene State (North Myrtle Beach, S.C.), 9:30a.m.
Eastern vs. Endicott (Clermont, Fla.), 11:15a.m.
St. Joseph vs. Greenville (North Myrtle Beach, S.C.), 11:30a.m.
UConn at St. John's, 3p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Fairfield at Denver, 3p.m.
St. Joseph at Johnson & Wales, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

UConn at Florida Southern, 2p.m.

BIG EAST BASKETBALL

Standings	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
MEN'S (FINAL)				
Team				
Providence	14-3	.824	25-5	.833
Villanova	16-4	.800	26-7	.788
UConn	13-6	.684	23-9	.719
Creighton	12-7	.632	22-11	.667
Seton Hall	11-8	.579	21-10	.677
Marquette	11-8	.579	19-12	.613
Xavier	8-11	.421	18-13	.581
St. John's	8-11	.421	17-15	.531
DePaul	6-14	.300	15-16	.484
Butler	6-14	.300	14-19	.424
Georgetown	0-19	.000	6-25	.194

WOMEN'S (FINAL)	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Team				
UConn	16-1	.941	25-5	.833
Villanova	15-4	.789	23-8	.742
Creighton	15-5	.750	20-9	.690
DePaul	14-6	.700	22-10	.688
Marquette	13-7	.650	21-10	.677
Seton Hall	12-8	.600	19-12	.613
St. John's	7-12	.368	12-19	.387
Providence	6-14	.300	11-19	.367
Georgetown	4-15	.211	10-19	.345
Xavier	4-16	.200	9-21	.300
Butler	0-18	.000	1-27	.036

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS

MEN'S Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
Northeastern	36	24	11-1	24	15-8-1 47
UMass	33	19	12-2	24	14-8-2 46
UMass Lowell	32	20	9-3	24	15-8-1 46
UConn	33	18	15-0	24	14-10-0 41
Boston University	34	19	12-3	24	13-8-3 41
Merrimack	33	18	14-1	24	13-11-0 41
Providence	36	21	13-2	24	12-11-1 38
Boston College	36	14	17-5	24	9-12-3 32
New Hampshire	33	14	18-1	24	8-15-1 25
Vermont	34	8	24-2	24	6-16-2 20
Maine	32	7	21-4	24	5-17-2 19